

Monday
 Cover up
 The 30-year rule releases the records for 1953 - and a Churchill cover-up is revealed



Round Up
 The Times anniversaries for 1984

Stepping up
 First of a series on South Africa and its neighbours as the fighting steps up in Angola

Highland ...
 Searching for clan rooms among the heather ... games

Round up of the New Year weekend sport

Shultz and Gromyko will meet
 Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is to hold talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Stockholm on January 18. They will be in Stockholm for the opening of the 35-nation conference on European security and confidence-building measures. It will be their first meeting since they held talks in Madrid in September, shortly after the shooting down of a Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter.

Rig talks offer
 Britoil's chairman said he is willing to start talks on the cancelled oil rig order which could close British Shipbuilders' Scott Lithgow yard on the Lower Clyde

CBI warning
 Central and local government costs imposed on industry must be reduced to sustain the recovery through 1984, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said

WPC's funeral
 The funeral of WPC Jane Arbuthnot, one of the six victims of the Harrods bomb, took place at St Luke's Church near Chelsea police station

Mortgage boost
 Four of the top five building societies expect to increase their mortgage lending by at least 20 per cent next year.

Galtieri in dock
 Former President Galtieri of Argentina and his fellow junta members who launched the Falklands invasion have been indicted for murder and torture.

On its own
 Ninety-five years of British protection over Brunei ends at midnight tonight as the tiny enclave on Borneo's north coast assumes full independence.

Wider protest
 Greenham Common peace women said they will extend their protest to other military bases, nuclear power plants and research stations, in the new year.

Leader page, 11
 Letters: On Eagle Star, from Mr R C Howroyd; legal education, from his Hon Judge Head; coinage, from Mr A B Purbrick, and others

Features: page 10
 Neil Kinnock sees the shadow of the Thought Police; Gavin Stamp on architects and planning controls; Julie Davidson's un-Scottish hogmanay

Obituary, page 12
 Mr Maurice Bond, Miss Doris Chambers

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Thatcher promises a year of hope and liberty

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in a buoyant new year message to the Conservative Party yesterday, said that George Orwell was wrong and she promised that 1984 would be a year of hope and liberty.

In a statement reflecting considerable optimism about the future and clearly designed to stamp on suggestions that the Government has become accident-prone since its landslide general election victory, the Prime Minister declared: "Far from losing our way, we are just getting into our stride."

And she pledged that the Government's achievements since 1979 were "only the beginning" of what she called the revival of Britain under the Conservatives.

Mrs Thatcher's upbeat tone contrasted sharply with that of Mr Neil Kinnock, who in his first new year message to the Labour Party as leader, lamented the failure of the Government to arrest economic decline and the weakening of the health and welfare services, and accused the Government of a lack of will to face up to Britain's difficulties.

Mr Kinnock called on the voters to use the local elections next May and the European elections the following month to combat the Government.

In her message Mrs Thatcher showed her sensitivity to charges that had publicity on several issues since the election, ranging from the choice of the Commons Speaker, the Parkinson affair, the deterioration in relations with the United States over Grenada and Lebanon and the dispute over energy prices are evidence that the Government is faltering.

She said that the Government had embarked on its second term "with the same enthusiasm and determination" with which it came to office. "Today, no less than when we first came into office, we believe what we say, we say what we believe, and have the courage to see it through."

Mrs Thatcher said that the prospect for jobs was becoming brighter and restated the Government's commitment to the goals it set itself in 1979: defence of the realm, support for the rule of law, greater freedom for the individual, protection for the vulnerable, honest money and prudent

Leadership rift on overtime pit ban
 By Our Labour Reporter
 The solidarity of miners' leaders over the present overtime ban was breached yesterday when a member of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive called for a pithead ballot over the action.

Mr Roy Otley, head of the pit craftsmen's power group, has written to Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, urging him to allow a national vote to prevent civil war in the NUM.

Mr Otley's call came after the 40-strong North Staffordshire winders' branch voted to defy the union's overtime ban. The branch said it would take 24-hour strike action if pickets prevented members doing their normal work from January 7.

Mr Otley, a respected right-winger, said: "I have canvassed the opinion of other power group members who are not defying the ban, and there is a large number in favour of a ballot."

The National Coal Board has said that the eight-week-old overtime ban, which was ordered by a national delegates' meeting, lost miners more than £25m in wages by Christmas; the equivalent of about £164 for every pitman. Those figures are strongly disputed by Mr Scargill.

Mr Stephen Higginson, the North Staffordshire winders' branch secretary, said he realized that his members' threatened strike would prevent other miners working and that it would be aimed at his own union. "But that is how strongly we feel."

Shamir battles for Cabinet unity in spending cuts crisis
 From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israeli commentators are agreed that the attempt to find sufficient public savings to devise a budget for 1984-1985 with any chance of rescuing the ailing economy poses the Government with its severest test to date. A number of key coalition parties have threatened to desert Mr Shamir if their ideological interests are not recognized and compensated for financially.

A full-scale political crisis was deferred yesterday by a decision agreed by all ministers to discuss principles only rather than specific cuts. The real crunch will come when individual ministers have to agree how much they are willing to give up.

Although yesterday's marathon session took place in a crisis atmosphere, Mr Shamir's chances of holding together his shaky coalition until the scheduled election date of 1985 were helped by a statement reportedly made by Mr Abba Eban, the chief foreign affairs spokesman of the main Labour opposition.

According to Israel radio, Mr Eban said in an interview that his party would be prepared to open negotiations over all the Arab territory conquered by Israel in 1967 in its search for peace in the Middle East. Such a gesture was judged as likely to alienate certain of the smaller coalition parties which might have been tempted to team up with Labour by crossing the floor of the Knesset (Parliament) as a result of their economic grievances.

Spy couple sentencing today
 From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Sentence will be passed today in the Cape Supreme Court on Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, former commander of the South African naval dockyard at Simonstown and his wife, Ruth, who were convicted of high treason on Thursday on charges of spying for the Soviet Union.

Evidence in mitigation was heard yesterday, but, like the rest of the trial, proceedings were all in camera. High treason carries a maximum penalty of death by hanging, but is rarely imposed in such cases.

Gerhardt was found to have been employed by the Russians from 1964 until his arrest in January of this year and to have transmitted military secrets to them. His wife was found guilty of assisting him, mainly as a courier, from the early 1970s onwards.

The judge dismissed Gerhardt's claim to have been a double agent working for an unnamed power not hostile to South Africa and which had asked him to offer his services to the Russians to find out what their interests in South Africa were.

● LONDON: A former chief of the defence staff yesterday suggested that British naval officers who had contact with Gerhardt over the past 20 years should be vetted to check if any secrets were passed to him (John Witherow writes).

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton described it as a "sensible" if rather stable-door operation.

Herr Fleischauer's last will and tele-testament
 From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Near Herr Johann Fleischauer's head hovers an angel. On the desk in front of him are two silver candlesticks, a glass of sherry and an open bible, as silver-haired and solemn, he reads his will into the camera. After his death, his heirs will gather round as he sends his last message to his loved ones on video tape.

Electronics have overtaken the German way of death, and a Hamburg video producer is cashing in on the vogue. For DM1,200 (£300) Herr Udo Schinowski will record you reading your own will - with appropriate (and unsavoury) lectures for those grasping

Air officers see their families at last



Air Lieutenant Weir, youngest of the released trio, being greeted at Heathrow by his sister Helen



Wing Commander Cox with his wife Sandy, and his daughter, Taryn, whom he saw for the first time yesterday



Air Lieutenant Lloyd, who described his torture in jail, being welcomed by his wife, Celia, and daughter, Tina

Lieutenant tells of nightmare months

By Rupert Morris

One of the three Zimbabwe Air Force officers who flew to Britain yesterday after 17 months in jail, gave a graphic account of the torture he had suffered, and its effect on him.

Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 32, who was welcomed at Heathrow by his wife and 18-month-old daughter - whom he hardly knew, having been imprisoned soon after she was born - shook as he recalled his ordeal.

"I suffered nightmares for a good five months," he said, "but I'm almost over it now."

He said he was tortured two weeks after being rearrested after his acquittal on charges of sabotage at the Zimbabwe Air Force base at Thornhill.

"I was connected to an electrical generator by electrodes placed all over my body, including the genitals. I suffered convulsions. The torture lasted about two and a half hours."

Lieutenant Lloyd said he did not blame the Zimbabwe Government for his torture, but believed it to be the result of someone being "over-enthusiastic". He was disappointed, however, that there had been no official expression of disapproval.

He and his two colleagues, Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, who arrived at Heathrow on the same flight, face an urgent search for jobs.

All three, who hold dual British-Zimbabwean citizenship, said their lives in Zimbabwe had been destroyed.

Wing Commander Cox, who was met by his father, the Rev William Cox, of St Mary's Church, Fishponds, Bristol, said he had gained strength from his faith, particularly during the long periods of solitary confinement.

"I was always a Christian, but I'm a stronger one now," he said. His 13-month-old daughter was born while he was in prison.

Both he and Air Lieutenant Weir said they were tortured, but declined to talk about it.

All three denied any involvement in the sabotage in August last year, when 13 combat aircraft were destroyed. They believe they were merely convenient scapegoats.

Four other white members of the Zimbabwe Air Force, also detained, acquitted, and rearrested, were released last week.

Life peerages for Mulley and Bottomley

By Staff Reporters

Two former Labour Cabinet ministers who failed to get on Mr Michael Foot's final list of recommendations for the dissolution honours list last July are made life peers in the new year awards which are announced today.

Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence in the last Labour Government, a former party chairman and a member of Labour's national executive committee for 20 years, and Mr Arthur Bottomley, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs in the 1964 Labour Government and later Minister of Overseas Development, were recommended for the honours by the Prime Minister.

Both Mr Mulley, aged 65, and Mr Bottomley, aged 76, were in the former Labour leader's original proposals for some 27 Labour working peers in the dissolution honours but were taken out when Mrs Margaret Thatcher insisted that the Labour list be kept to single figures.

Two other life peerages are awarded today: Mr Alistair McAlpine, joint treasurer of the Conservative Party; and Sir Peter Henderson, the former Clerk of the Parliaments.

Alistair Burnet, presenter of Independent Television's *News at Ten* and a former editor of *The Economist* and the *Daily Express* receives a knighthood. Among the other broadcasting awards are a CBE for Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Television and an MBE for Chris Gittens, aged 81, who plays Walter Gabriel in *The Archers*, the long-running BBC Radio 4 serial.

Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, and Mr Peter Middleton, Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, are appointed Knights Commanders of the Order of the Bath (KCBs).

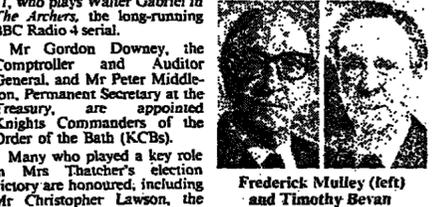
Many who played a key role in Mrs Thatcher's election victory are honoured, including Mr Christopher Lawson, the

Conservative Party's marketing director, who is knighted. Guinevere Lady Tilney, who worked for Mrs Thatcher's political office for several years in government and opposition, and became known in Whitehall as the "wardrobe mistress", advising the Prime Minister on dress style, is made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Mr Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays Bank, has been knighted, for his services to commerce and industry.

Among the sporting awards are a knighthood for Mr Arthur Gold, chairman of the Commonwealth Games Council for England and former secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board, an OBE for Bertie Mee, the former manager of Arsenal football club, and MBEs for Frederick Daly, who 37 years ago won the British Open Golf Championship, and Maurice Hope, the former world middleweight boxing champion.

Mr Neil Kinnock, has maintained the practice of recent Labour leaders of not making nominations for political awards. Full list, pages 4, 5



Frederick Mulley (left) and Timothy Bevan

BAT wins Eagle Star battle with £966m bid

By Andrew Cornelius

Britain's biggest takeover battle drew to a close yesterday when West German insurer Allianz Versicherungs, decided to pull out of the bidding for Eagle Star after a record £966m competing bid came from BAT Industries.

Allianz agreed to sell its 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star, which is Britain's sixth largest insurance company, after discussions in Munich which were concluded late on Thursday. Allianz bought its shares in Eagle over two years and stands to make £163m profit on the deal.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, was delighted with the outcome and will recommend the 700p per share offer from BAT to shareholders. His own stake in Eagle Star has risen in value from £2.7m to £3.7m since the fiercely contested bidding for the company began two months ago.

The takeover brings together BAT, Britain's third largest cosmetics business and International Stores chains, the Eagle Star, which controls £3.5 billion of policyholders' money.

On the stockmarket, shares of Eagle Star fell from 714p to 692p on news of the deal, while BAT shares rose by 11p to close at 179p

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Britoil chief ready for eleventh-hour talks on fate of North Sea rig

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sir Philip Shelbourne, chairman of Britoil, has said he is still willing to have discussions on the cancellation of its oil rig order, which threatens 4,500 jobs at Scott Lithgow on the Lower Clyde.

He has also said, however, that if British Shipbuilders contests Britoil's right to cancel the £86m rig order in court talks would become increasingly difficult.

Thousands of people in the west of Scotland.

Britoil cancelled the order last week. The rig was due for delivery in the spring but is estimated to be more than 500 days behind schedule, and British Shipbuilders has said it cannot afford penalty payments.

In his reply to the churches Sir Philip said: "We have been conscious throughout this year of the effect of cancellation of our order on hull 2002 and we have used every endeavour to introduce an element of realistic negotiations into this matter."

Talks to avert strike by shipbuilders adjourned

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Talks aimed at averting a national strike by 60,000 shipbuilding workers were adjourned yesterday until Tuesday, amid mounting pessimism that a solution could be achieved.

After a day of talks at the London offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) in which the unions and management met in separate discussions with Mr Dennis Boyd, chief conciliation officer, there was little sign of a breakthrough.

Representatives of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions expressed disappointment that Mr Graham Day, chairman of the state-owned British Shipbuilders, was not present at yesterday's meetings and does not plan to return from holiday in Canada in time for Tuesday's talks.

Mr Maurice Phelps, head of industrial relations at British Shipbuilders, said that management had put forward some proposals which he hoped would "assist the situation" and

prevent the stoppage, which is due to start next Friday. But he added that "it did not look very hopeful".

Mr Jim Murray, chairman of the unions' shipbuilding negotiating committee, said after the meeting that the position had not improved but added: "We would certainly not be coming back on Tuesday if we did not think there was a possibility of a solution."

The union delegation saw Mr Boyd first and told him that management's plans to change working practices, which is at the heart of the dispute, would be introduced too quickly and some of them were impracticable.

Mr Boyd was told that the company's offer of a £7 a week productivity deal was not the main point at issue.

The management team told Acas officers that the new working methods, which include the sweeping away of demarcation lines and a radical increase in flexibility, were essential and needed urgently.

"It must be recognized that the delays that occurred in the delivery of this order were fundamental, and called for a substantial renegotiation of the contract terms."

"We made this very clear to British Shipbuilders, who always refused to discuss such a course of action, and accordingly we had no alternative to cancellation of the order."

British Shipbuilders has yet to reply officially but a spokesman for the churches said they hoped for an early response from the chairman, Mr Graham Day.

Scott Lithgow now has only one other order on its books - for a £60m oil exploration rig BP, which is also behind schedule.

British Shipbuilders faces a £19,000-a-day penalty payment on the BP order backdated to last February, and has asked the oil company for an extension of the contract to allow the rig to be completed early in March.



Camp comforts: Greenham Common protesters keeping warm round a fire yesterday (Photograph: John Voos).

Greenham women to tackle other bases

From David Cross, Greenham Common

The peace women of Greenham Common said yesterday they would be extending their protest movement to other military bases and installations in the new year.

At a press conference at their makeshift camp outside the north gate of the Berkshire air base, Miss Rebecca Johnson said that protesters would also visit nuclear power plants and chemical and biological research stations. They would be equipped with wire-cutters to take down perimeter fences.

The women said in a statement: "In 1984 we will continue to expose the lies behind all the military bases throughout Britain and to increase our links with women's struggle for nuclear disarmament and an end to oppression, prejudice, exploitation and violence in every country on earth."

The statement said that after two and a half years at Greenham the women believed they had achieved their aim of making cruise missiles at the base "politically and militarily inoperable at this time". (The Government has said that the first 16 missiles which arrived at Greenham last month would have "initial operating capability" by tonight.)

However, Miss Johnson said the Government had failed to show that the launchers and their missiles could be deployed beyond the confines of the base and had failed to maintain security at Greenham. Some women believed that the cruise warheads were no longer there.

The lack of security had been clearly demonstrated earlier this week when three women spent about three hours in the air traffic control tower in the base without being detected, Miss Johnson said.

During their stay in the tower the women had found classified documents outlining procedures for landing an aircraft which had been contaminated by nuclear radiation, she said.

Miss Johnson added that the Greenham women questioned the right of any government to bring radioactive material into a populated area and to keep the information secret from people whose lives would be affected.

Women from one of the other peace camps at the base announced at the press conference that they would be giving half the donations they received from well-wishers to help less privileged women throughout the world.

The Greenham women will celebrate New Year's Day by releasing into the air hundreds of balloons tied with cut-out paper women and messages of peace.

● Mrs Jacquetta Hull, aged 25, of Brook Drive, Kennington, south London, who with several other demonstrators lay down in the road in Whitehall during the Remembrance Sunday ceremony on November 13, was conditionally discharged for three months at Highbury Magistrates' Court yesterday for using insulting behaviour.

Pershlings ready, page 7

Deathbed marriage by Melville

Mr Alan Melville the broadcaster who died on Christmas Eve aged 73 married his housekeeper three days earlier, it was disclosed yesterday.

In a ceremony at his bedside in the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, he married Mrs Midge Embery, a widow in her sixties and his companion for 25 years.

Mr Paul Vaughan, Mr Melville's agent, said yesterday: "Alan knew he was dying and it was his deepest wish to marry Midge. The marriage gave him joy and peace."

The marriage ceremony was attended by doctors, nurses, immediate family and friends and was conducted under special licence by the hospital chaplain. Mrs Melville had previously worked for Gilbert Harding, the broadcaster, who died in 1960.

Thief returned for other shoe

A pre-Christmas shoplifter, who found he had stolen two left shoes, was arrested the next day while taking a matching right shoe.

Hughie Clarke, aged 21, of Albert Road, Aston, Birmingham, was fined £50 yesterday for two thefts from the same store. He was arrested when staff recognized him from the previous day, Miss Francoise Snape, for the prosecution, told Birmingham magistrates.

Man to be freed after 26 years

Britain's second longest serving prisoner, Kenneth Barlow, aged 65, will be released on licence next week. He was jailed 26 years ago for the "perfect" murder of his wife by injecting her with insulin.

Barlow is in Leyhill open prison, near Bristol. Only John Straffen, the child killer, has been in prison longer.

Cast of 'Archers' at funeral

The funeral of Gwen Berryman, the actress who played Doris Archer for almost 30 years in the BBC radio serial *The Archers*, was attended yesterday in Torquay by members of the cast.

Shelagh Donohue, because of ill health in 1980 and died last week aged 77.

Crash landing

Mr Ian Rae, the pilot of a Cessna 310 light aircraft and his woman passenger escaped injury when it crashed at Glasgow airport last night.

Corrections

Roy Marsden, who plays Mr Chips in a new BBC television series, had his last major role in the Anglia series *Death of an Expert Witness* not *Reilly, Ace of Spies*, as stated yesterday.

Love Song, the television play in which Lord Glenlivet is to appear next May, was written by Paul Ableman, not Jeffrey Archer, on whose short story, "Old Love", it is based.

Big BR pay-offs to cut staff

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

British Rail is offering attractive terms to persuade up to 9,000 staff to retire early.

The aim is to save about £90m a year on the wages bill to help to meet a £184m cut in government subsidy over the next two years announced by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, before Christmas.

Staff who agree to retire early are being offered full pension from 55 instead of 60 or 62 according to status and a lump sum substantially higher than the statutory minimum.

A £150-a-week driver with 25 years' service, for example would receive about £6,500 and full pension on leaving at 55.

British Rail's corporate plan provides for a reduction in staff from 155,000 to 142,000 by 1986 and Mr Bob Reid, the new chairman, is pledged to deliver the plan's targets. The severance scheme is part of the plan.

Most people who had been offered the new retirement deal have accepted it, a spokesman said. Most of those affected are clerical and similar staff.

Maxwell sends out redundancy notices

By Kenneth Gosling

The seven-week dispute which has prevented 800,000 copies of the *Radio Times* reaching readers in London seemed likely last night to continue indefinitely as redundancy notices were issued to print workers at Park Royal in west London.

A spokesman for the British Printing and Communications Corporation, of which Mr Robert Maxwell is the chairman, said no agreement had been reached before Christmas on the installation of two presses costing £10m.

"It has been known all along", he said, "that if we did not get agreement we would have to issue redundancy notices."

"Sogat '82, the National Graphical Association, everyone has known this and has been expecting the notices, some of which are being posted off today."

Redundancy money is being paid at twice the usual rate, four weeks for every year of service instead of two.

A *Radio Times* spokesman said Sogat '82 had complied with a High Court injunction earlier this month to lift its blacking of the printing and



Mr Maxwell: No accord on £10m machines

distribution of the magazine. "But we back to square one with this dispute with Mr Maxwell", he said.

BPPC maintains that the Park Royal operation cannot be made viable without the machines being installed, and says all union branches had reached agreement except one London machine shop.

The Park Royal typesetting centre, employing 160 people, is not affected.

Remand pledge honoured

With only a day to spare Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has honoured his pledge to remove all remand prisoners from police cells before the end of the year.

The Home Office said yesterday that all such prisoners had been transferred to jails. That means that in London there are now 629 remand prisoners at Brixton, 400 at Wormwood Scrubs and 181 at Pentonville.

Mr Brittan made his promise at the Conservative Party conference in October.

The total being held in police cells was 400 a day for most of the year but fell to 63 on Wednesday until there was none remaining by last night.

The move was possible because Wormwood Scrubs admitted prisoners on holding charges for the first time this month and because more places became available at Pentonville.

Pay law still unfair, TUC says

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Equal pay legislation, which comes into force today, will not end discrimination against women, according to the TUC.

The law will not observe an edict from the European Commission which urged the Government to bring the rules into line with the rest of Europe.

The European Court of Justice had criticized Britain because women here could not claim equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, has protested to Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, that the legislation is inadequate.

The law will enable industrial tribunals to hear equal value claims, but the TUC says it will also allow employers to claim justification for inequities because of "market forces".

For example, where a woman has a skill of "equal value" to a man's, an employer will be allowed to pay him more if his skill is in short supply.

"This would reinforce the segregation of women into low-paid jobs rather than end inequality," the TUC said.

Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, has said part of the new regulations was so complex that it was extremely difficult even for lawyers to understand.

The House of Lords passed an amendment to the Bill on December 5 by 108 votes to 104, stating that the regulations neither complied with the European Commission directive nor reflected the European Court's decision.

Mr Murray expressed concern to Mr Clark that potential applicants in tribunal cases would be deterred because costs could be awarded against them.

Mr Murray expressed "a note of caution" over either party's ability to call one expert witness. Employers would have greater resources and would therefore, be more able to call on such evidence.

The TUC claims tribunal procedures will be "more protracted and cumbersome".

Helicopter foils cash raid

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

A military helicopter crew defied shots from the ground as they foiled an armed robbery on the Irish border yesterday. The two-man crew was unhurt and the Westland Gazelle helicopter undamaged.

It was escorting a Securicor armoured van as it carried money from Newry to Crossmaglen, the centre of the IRA dominated South Armagh border zone of Northern Ireland.

Two miles from Crossmaglen, at Creggan Bridge, the helicopter crew saw the armoured van being rammed by a second vehicle and forced to halt.

As the pilot of the Gazelle then moved in for a closer look, radioing for army and RUC reinforcements as he did so, the raiders opened fire with rifles, without effect.

They abandoned their attempt to force the two Securicor guards to open the armoured van, and sped off in their own vehicle for the border, about four miles away.

Hebden holds chess lead

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Hastings

With a 20-move draw in round three against the Hungarian grandmaster, Csorn, Mark Hebden, the Leicester player, maintained his lead with the excellent score of 2½ out of 3 in the Ace grandmaster tournament in Hastings.

Nigel Short won in good style against Sax, who always looked to be in trouble and resigned on the 37th move.

The Swedish grandmaster Karlsson won in good combative style against the Romanian grandmaster Suba, and the game between Ivanov and Alburt was adjourned.

Results in round three: Ivanov adjourned against Alburt, QJ Benoni defence 42 moves; Martin ½, Flacnik ½, Sicilian defence 22; Karlsson 1, Suba 0, English opening, 41; Mestel ½, Speelman ½, English opening 22; Short 1, Sax 0, Sicilian defence 37; Gurevich ½, Kudrin ½, Sicilian defence 14; Csorn ½, Hebden ½, English opening 20.

Adjourned games results, round two: Flacnik ½, Ivanov ½; Sax 0, Mestel 1.

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SDP upset by Owen coalition warning

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen's new year message to the Social Democrats warning them to prepare to work in a coalition government has upset members of his party who want to see it working in closer harmony with the Liberals.

Dr Owen's statement is seen by many in the party as declaring his readiness in certain circumstances to come to an electoral arrangement with the Labour Party after the next election, if the Conservatives were to win the highest number of seats but fail to secure an outright majority.

Mr Neville Sandelson, who joined the SDP from Labour during the last Parliament but lost his seat at the election, said yesterday that "true Social Democrats" did not and would not contemplate a coalition with socialists merely to gain

office and a tiny foothold in the corridors of power. No amount of phoney cosmetics could close ranks or the true nature of Labour's ideology and ultimate aims.

"An electoral arrangement of that nature to defeat the present government would be a disaster for Britain and a betrayal of fundamental democratic principles. A Labour-led coalition government would be a sham."

Mr Sandelson said that in 1984 either the SDP and Liberals would close ranks or they would fall totally apart. Together they were a potential government "but divided they amount to an old maid's tea party".

He said that he had no doubt that many Social Democrats would share his misgivings as to the precise meanings of Dr Owen's message.

Police check guns in hunt for double killer

The police have interviewed about 30 men and checked several shotguns in the hunt for the killer of a couple shot dead near Manaccan on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall.

Miss Rosalind Richards, aged 18, a part-time barmaid, and Mr Rodney Pellow, a divorced farmer aged 32 who lived in Coverack, near by, were each shot twice on Tuesday in her caravan.

Det Supt Geoff Warren, head of Cornwall CID, said: "Rosalind had numerous boyfriends. Inquiries into Miss Richards's social life have uncovered reports of late-night parties and marital infidelity."

More than 1,100 people in the area have shotgun licences.

Cell suicide despite warning to jail

A remand prisoner hanged himself with a sheet in his cell despite a police warning to prison authorities that he was suicidal, an inquest at Gloucester was told yesterday. (Our Gloucester correspondent writes.)

Detective Sergeant Michael Biddell said: "When he went to prison I completed a form to the authorities at the jail stating that he was mentally unstable, and in my view he would commit suicide."

Three days after Mr Peter Fussell's admission to the hospital wing at Gloucester prison, he was found hanging by a sheet tied to the window bars.

Mr Fussell, aged 45, of The Circle, Uplands, Stroud, Gloucestershire, was on remand

accused of attacking Mr Godfrey Askew, his former employer at Stroud & District Council.

He was alleged to have hit Mr Askew on the head with a hammer, causing severe head injuries.

Det Sergeant Biddell said Mr Fussell told him: "Askew was responsible for me getting the sack from the council."

Prison Officer William Cook, said he had not been told to keep any special watch on Mr Fussell.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide. After the hearing, Mr William McEvoy, governor of Gloucester prison, said an internal inquiry had been held and a report sent to the Home Office.

Remand for arms charge student

An Oxford University student was remanded in custody until January 6 at Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with having a revolver and ammunition without fire-arms certificates and unlawfully possessing explosives.

Daniel Ernie Singleton, aged 28, studying at St Catherine's College, Oxford, was arrested by anti-terrorist squad police at his home in Princess Crescent, Finsbury Park, on Wednesday.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$28; Belgium 8 fr 50; Canada \$27; Denmark 180; Germany 880; Hong Kong \$28; Italy 100; Japan 100; New Zealand \$28; Norway 100; Portugal 100; Spain 100; Sweden 100; Switzerland 100; Taiwan 100; USA \$28; Yugoslavia 100.

Today's Taste of Utopia

December 27th

Today's global taste of utopia brings the flavour of rising optimism and positivity in the peoples and governments of the diverse cultures and political systems of the world, including the U.S.A., the Soviet Union, India, China, Japan, Bangladesh, and East and West Germany.

- "We do not expect utopia, but I believe we are on the verge of new progress towards national reconciliation and withdrawal of foreign forces," said President Reagan today speaking of the situation in Lebanon.
- Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon cooperate on proposal for peace in Lebanon.
- "Time upholds U.S. President Reagan and Soviet Andropov together as 'Men of the Year'."
- East Germany and Peoples' Republic of China sign agreement on scientific cooperation.
- East Germany dismantles automatic shooting devices along 48 kilometres of West German border.
- Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone pledges strong ties with U.S.A.
- South Korea welcomes new Japanese Cabinet.
- All industrial trade tariffs between European Economic Community and European Trade Association to disappear, making European free trade area the world's largest single market.
- "People have been working with greater desire. In general a change for the better in the national economy has begun to show - the most important thing now is not to lose the tempo and the generally positive intent to get things going," said Soviet Premier Andropov.
- Indian economy shows signs of improvement.
- Monsoon likely to boost food output in Tamil Nadu, India.
- Republic of Ireland's politicians initiate for peace in Ulster since independence.
- Voting takes place in Bangladesh for the first time in seven years, laying the foundation for a return to democracy.
- President Marcos of the Philippines pardons 280 prisoners.

These world events indicate that the "UNIFYING", "HARMONIZING", "INTEGRATION", "NOURISHING", "SELF-SUFFICIENCY", "CREATIVITY", "ORGANIZING POWER", "DYNAMISM", "SUPPORT OF NATURE", "FREEDOM" and "BLISS" qualities of the unified field of all the laws of nature, contained in a world consciousness during the last ten days, continue to be lively in today's taste of utopia.

Modern Science, Vedic Science

Leading physicist Dr. John Hagelin, Chairman of the Department of Physics at Maharishi International University, has located these qualities in the Lagrangian of the N=3 supergravity theory of quantum physics.

The subjective approach of Vedic Science accounts for the growth of these qualities in world events as the enlightenment of SATYA (natural law) in world consciousness during the collective performance of the TM-Sidhi programme by 7000 experts in the Maharishi Technology of the Unified Field assembled at Maharishi International University, Fairfield, Iowa, U.S.A.

Scientific research on extensive scientific research of the Unified Field, collected in four volumes of 2800 pages, has documented the growth of the unified field of all the laws of nature on every level of life - physiological, psychological, and sociological.

Tomorrow's taste of utopia tomorrow...

Maharishi International University, Fairfield, Iowa 52556, USA

Nurse suspended after inquiry into night management at hospital

By Michael Horsnell

The senior night nursing officer at a hospital for the mentally handicapped, where a union official committed suicide this year, has been suspended after a six-month inquiry into night nursing management there.

Mr Amadeo Dell'Erario, aged 48, was relieved of his duties at the 900-patient Harpenden Hospital near Redlett, Hertfordshire, when the inquiry team reported a serious deficiency in the quality of management.

The report, endorsed by the North-West Hertfordshire Health Authority which ordered it, followed pressure from the health service union, Cohse for an investigation into what happens at night at the hospital.

A night nurse, Mr Tony Joyce, aged 36, who was the hospital's Cohse branch secretary was found dead last February with his throat slashed outside a ward entrance. An electric carving knife was discovered near by.

An inquest decided Mr Joyce had taken his own life.

In mid-December 1982 he had begun to take statements from night staff concerned about management practices at

the hospital at night. Then on New Year's Eve he was involved in an alleged skirmish with a senior member of the night nursing staff. As a result he faced a disciplinary hearing.

Mrs Margaret Joyce told the inquest that her husband, who had protested his innocence, had been worried he would lose his job.

Mr Neil Goodwin, the health authority's deputy district administrator, said yesterday: "It is alleged that Mr Joyce was harassed for taking statements from staff over their dissatisfaction with the management."

"His tragic suicide heightened the antagonism of staff to management but it was one incident in a sequence of events which led the authority to hold an inquiry."

The report, by a four-man health authority team, said: "Staff we interviewed, including sisters, were of the opinion that there was an undue degree of familiarity in the relationships of the male nurse managers and certain female staff."

Mr Dell'Erario, an Italian, has been suspended on full pay pending further investigations by Mr Frank Powell, district

Police say farewell to Harrods bomb WPC

By Tony Samstag

The Metropolitan Police paid their last respects yesterday to Miss Jane Philippa Arbuthnot, a Woman Police Constable 481'B, attached to Chelsea Police Station.

WPC Arbuthnot, aged 22, was one of two police officers who died in the bomb explosion at Harrods on December 17. A third officer, Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, died on Christmas Eve of injuries received in the blast and is to be buried next week.

The funeral congregation at St Luke's Church, round the corner from the police station in Lucan Place, was a still sea of black uniforms punctuated only by the white hats of Miss Arbuthnot's female colleagues.

In his address, the Right Rev Mark Santee, Bishop of Kensington, spoke of a collective "debt of pride and gratitude to men and women who have counted the cost, and know the risks, and are still prepared to do what has to be done to protect the life and the security of their fellow citizens."

Sergeant Michael Thwaites' appreciation dwelt on WPC Arbuthnot's style, in particular her bicycle, which she had bought "to enable her, in her own words, to 'zap around the ground'."

Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was among the congregation. The pall-bearers, all close colleagues of the dead woman, included two who had been slightly injured in the Harrods explosion, Police Constables Mark Grover and Peter Weinberg. The anthem, Mendelssohn's "Beati Mortui" was sung by the Metropolitan Police choir.

Burial, in south London, was private.

Police Constable Jon Gordon, the dog handler who lost a leg in the Harrods blast, may have to undergo another operation, it was announced yesterday.



Among the police guard of honour outside St Luke's Church, WPC Pamela White weeps for her murdered colleague (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Law firm collapses with debts of £400,000

From Our Correspondent

A firm of solicitors in Liverpool has collapsed with debts of £400,000 and is being investigated by police.

The Law Society launched its own inquiry into Neville, Piercy and Calvey six weeks ago and appointed other solicitors to take over the business. Meanwhile, the commercial branch of Merseyside Police has started an inquiry into complaints from five former clients.

Mr Anthony Ostrin, of Yaffe, Jackson and Ostrin, the solicitors dealing with outstanding business, claimed yesterday that banks in Liverpool were owed more than £300,000.

"The money due to the banks has disappeared over a period of 18 months", he said.

He said the Law Society had set up a compensation fund of £15,000 for former clients but more than £80,000 had already been claimed.

Earlier this year the senior partner, Mr Alex Calvey, was fined £225 with £25 costs for failing to provide a return for value-added tax.

The Law Society said yesterday that inquiries by its professional purposes committee would be completed by the end of January.

Mr Calvey, who represented the child killer Ronald Waldron at preliminary hearings earlier this year, declined to comment at home in St George's Road, Hightown.

Falklands eggs now penguins

Two penguin eggs from the Falklands have hatched out at the Birdland sanctuary in Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

Mr Richard Hill, whose late father bought the uninhabited Grand Jason and Steeple Jason islands in the Falklands 30 years ago, went there last month and brought back a batch

Sony cuts disc price by £90

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The latest price war in the high street shops moved into a new phase yesterday with the Japanese consumer electronics manufacturer, Sony, cutting the price of its compact disc players only ten months after its British launch, in an attempt to match European competition.

By October only 10,000 of all types were sold, made largely by Sony, Philips and Marantz but, with more companies making the players, fierce competition, further price reductions and a boom in sales is expected.

Christmas sales are expected to show another 10,000 have been bought.

The Sony players have been reduced by £90 from the £549 launch price. Sony said: "In spite of the player's sophistication we cannot ignore our competitors' price reductions or the introduction of further compact disc players on the market from new manufacturers not involved in the development of the system."

Philips and Sony developed the technology, which uses a laser as a stylus and reproduces high quality music from a disc the size of a beer mat. The disc plays for a hour on one side only.

There are about 500 titles available on compact disc which are pressed principally by Polygram in Germany, and CBS-Sony in Japan.

The players were launched in October last year in Japan and this year in most of Europe and the United States.

£1 note gets stay of execution

By Kenneth Gosling

The Prime Minister's remarks last week concerning the unpopularity of the £1 coin appear to have lengthened the timescale over which the coin will eventually replace the note.

Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has said in a letter to Mr Norman Atkinson, Labour MP for Tottenham, that the Government always intended to withdraw the note "once the public had got used to the coin."

The trouble with the £1 note, as Mr Stewart said in his letter, is that it gets stuffed into pockets and purses and into shop tills and not returned to banks when its short life is over, to be replaced by new ones.

But for the foreseeable future - and no one was prepared to say yesterday when the full changeover will occur - the public will continue to choose between the two and, as Mrs Margaret Thatcher said last week, generally prefer the note, however tatty and grubby it may become.

It will certainly be retained, as she also said. The question mark hangs over the word "indefinitely".



MP's flying tackle: Mr William Waldegrave, (above), Under-Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment, caught a thief in full flight during a Christmas shopping trip, in London.

Low-price Scotch under fire

By Philip Webster

A David and Goliath struggle to save the cheap Scotch dram has developed among whisky producers north of the border.

Three firms who have been selling special cheaper, if slightly weaker, brands are under threat from government regulations for which the powerful Scotch Whisky Association has been pressing.

Most whisky is sold at a strength of 40 per cent alcohol content down by 2.5 per cent the three companies: Glencairn, Grangemouth Bond and the Co-op, have been able to take advantage of a sharp drop in the duty payable and sell their bottles at about £1 less.

The Government has drawn up regulations, which were due to come into force on January 1, to prohibit the production of whisky below 40 per cent alcohol, but has decided to hold off to consider a mass of representations on the issue.

The Scotch Whisky Association argues that if the British regulations are changed other countries will follow suit and its exports will be protected. It says that whisky being produced in France and elsewhere at 25 or 30 per cent alcohol is ruining the good name of Scotch.

The three small producers, however, suspect that it is not the only reason, and have been arguing in talks with ministers that if the objective is to squeeze out the French the limit could be set at 37.5.

But the association is worried enough about the home competition to have done some calculations which it claims proves that the cheap dram is not the bargain it is made out to be.

It has averaged the prices of eight standard brands at £6.77 a bottle. It states that if High Commission, which now sells at £5.99 had been bottled at full strength in the standard size bottle its retail equivalent would be £6.85.

'Heart for Christmas' girl home for new year

Emma Pashley, aged 7, returned home yesterday after doctors declared themselves very pleased with her progress after a heart operation.

The girl from Cheadle, Greater Manchester, had the operation two weeks ago after writing to Santa Claus asking for a new heart for Christmas.

It had been discovered that her heart was on the wrong side of her body and the wrong way round with transposed arteries.

Yesterday her parents, Mr Rod Pashley and his wife Susan, collected her from the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital.

It is understood that the family, from Brookfield Road, have signed an exclusive deal with a national newspaper.

Napley defends Smith inquest fee

Sir David Napley, the lawyer who charged £164 an hour for representing Dr Richard Arnot at the Helen Smith inquest, said yesterday that there had been a "complete misunderstanding and lack of knowledge" over the way his fee was calculated.

Sir David, who was assisted by another solicitor from his firm throughout the hearing a year ago, has been criticized for issuing a bill for £32,237.

The final charge includes a 100 per cent "mark-up" because of the complexities of the case.

It is being met by West Yorkshire County Council out of the rates, but the council chairman, Mr John Guncell, has said he was shocked by the "enormous" bill.

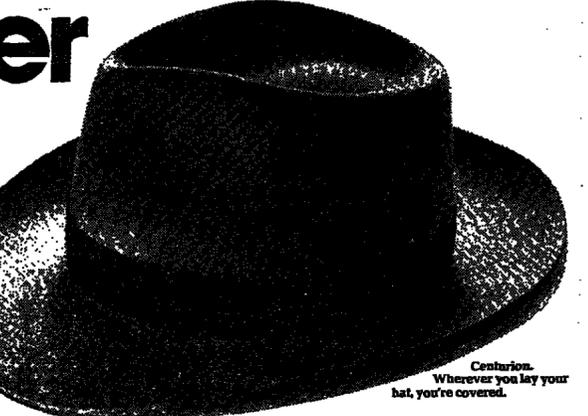
Sir David, speaking on BBC Radio's *The World At One* programme, said the bill included hotel and travelling

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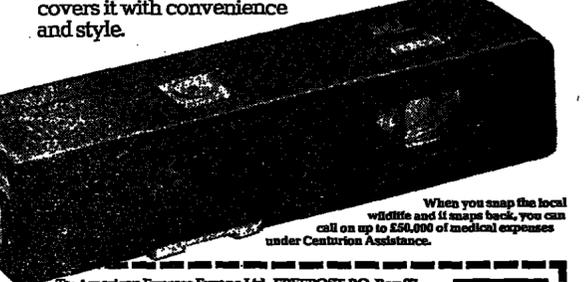
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Galtieri joins two former Presidents indicted for murder and treason

From Our Correspondent Buenos Aires

Former President Galtieri of Argentina, who was also the Army commander, and the Navy and Air Force commanders who helped him to plan last year's ill-fated Falklands invasion, were arraigned yesterday on charges of murder, torture, and illegal privation of liberty by Argentina's highest military court.

The court appearances came one day after four former armed services commanders, including former Presidents Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, presented themselves before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces here. They are accused of the same crimes by the military's new commander-in-chief, the new civilian President, Señor Raúl Alfonsín.

In all, nine former service commanders, comprising the first three of four military juntas ruling Argentina since the armed forces seized power here in 1976, are being tried in the Government-ordered courts martial.

One of the two commanders who has not yet been arraigned



General Galtieri in the dock with junta colleagues

is former Navy Commander Emilio Massera, who is under "preventive arrest" in a Buenos Aires naval jail pending a civilian court investigation of the mysterious disappearance in 1977 of a Buenos Aires man believed to have been his business partner.

The courts martial proceedings, begun on Thursday, were ordered in a special decree two weeks ago by President Alfonsín, the 56-year-old leader of the mainly middle class Radical Party, who was inaugurated on

December 10 to end nearly eight years of military rule here.

The decree was seen as an effort to fulfill a repeated campaign pledge by Señor Alfonsín to try those responsible for the military's bloody campaign against leftist terrorism in the mid and late 1970s.

More than 6,000 Argentines are believed to have been kidnapped and murdered by state security and armed forces.

The new President's initiatives, which include a commission to investigate the fate of the disappeared and special legislation to facilitate the investigation of military personnel by civilian courts, have prompted a broadening pursuit by Argentines of their country's bloody past.

Court-ordered exhumations from mass graves of the bodies of presumed victims of state security forces were due to have taken place yesterday in Buenos Aires.

In apparent effort to keep a politically even-handed approach to past civil strife, Señor Alfonsín's Government announced on Thursday the formation of a special anti-terrorist security force



Belaúnde reshuffles Peru Cabinet

Lima (Reuters) - President Fernando Belaúnde Terry of Peru was due to swear in three new ministers yesterday in his biggest Cabinet reshuffle in nearly a year.

The reshuffle had been awaited since November 16 when President Belaúnde, who replaced half his 16-member Cabinet last January, said he would make changes in his team before the end of the year.

The most important ministry to change hands is Energy and Mines, which oversees products earning Peru more than half of its yearly export income of about \$2,000m.

Peru is the world's second biggest silver producer and the sixth biggest producer of copper. It also exports nearly 40,000 barrels a day of gas and fuel oil to the United States and Colombia.

The new minister, Señor José Benavides Muñoz, aged 55, was previously manager of Peru's main steelmaker, the state-owned Siderperu corporation.

At the Fisheries Ministry, Señor Samuel Benavides Ferrer, aged 38, now Treasury Vice-Minister, faces the challenge of reviving the battered fisheries sector. Fishmeal output dropped 59 per cent during the first nine months of 1983.

The new Air Force Minister, Lieutenant-General José Zárate, aged 53, has responsibility for finding the money in the 1984 austerity budget for up to 26 French-built Mirage 2000 fighters, ordered a year ago.

The first freely elected mayor of a South American capital takes office tomorrow in Lima, a city of five million people (Colin Harding writes).

Señor Alfonso Barrantes Lingán is far removed from the stereotyped image of a militant Marxist politician; he is a dapper, quietly-spoken lawyer in his mid-fifties, who lards his conversation with references to God. His great achievement has been to bring many of Peru's warring left-wing factions together in an effective electoral alliance.

The mayor's office could be a springboard for Señor Barrantes to stand for president in 1985.

Riot troops seize 100 in Uruguay

Montevideo (Reuters) - Riot troops and mounted police charged into a crowd demonstrating against Uruguay's 10-year-old military Government, and arrested about 100 people, witnesses said yesterday.

Several demonstrators were kicked, punched and hit with truncheons during the Thursday night protest. One young man was beaten by several policemen and then dragged to a building site where an officer kicked his head, they said.

Motorists on Montevideo's main avenue blew their horns and neighbours banged saucepans from their balconies.

The demonstration, in support of Mr German Araujo, the owner of an independent radio station shut down by the Government, was staged outside the flat where he has been on hunger strike.

Small demonstrations have been held there every day since the radio station was closed on December 27.

Israelis close Awali bridges

Sidon (Reuters) - Israeli forces blocked all roads into occupied southern Lebanon with barbed wire yesterday as a wave of protest which started in Sidon on Thursday spread north to Beirut.

Israeli officers said the three crossing points - at the Awali bridge on the coast, at Bisi bridge 10 miles inland and at Niha in the Chouf mountains - would be open again on Monday. No explanation was given for the closure.

Military sources in Tel Aviv said technical reasons lay behind closing the two bridges over the Awali, Israel's northern defence line in Lebanon since its forces withdrew from Beirut.

A funeral procession from Beirut was turned back at the Awali yesterday and lorry drivers who had been waiting to cross for days fumed with rage at the surprise closure.

Outbreaks of gunfire around Sidon were reported on Thursday night, but there was no confirmation of new attacks on Israeli troops in the port town.

The closure of the bridges, Southern Lebanon's only links with the rest of the country, followed a marked escalation in anti-Israeli resistance activity and a general strike against the occupation in Sidon.

Security measures imposed at the Awali last month after a bombing in the Tyre are the main cause of Lebanese grievance.

BEIRUT: The Italian Defence Minister, Signor Giovanni Spadolini, arrived in Beirut unexpectedly yesterday to visit Italy's 2,200-strong contingent to the four-nation Western peacekeeping force in the Lebanese capital, Beirut radio said (Reuters reports).

The radio gave no details of his visit and the Italian military spokesman could not be contacted.

The Italian Defence Ministry said on Thursday that Signor Spadolini had asked the Italian commander in Beirut, General Franco Angioni, to approach the Lebanese Army about reports of army checks and searches inside the Italian zone.

TEL AVIV: A seven vehicle Irish UN convoy was caught in a guerrilla ambush of an Israeli of an Israeli patrol on a coastal road in southern Lebanon. The Israeli pursued their attackers and the Irish, who had taken cover, escaped injury. (AP reports).

TUNIS: Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, arrived here to chair an urgent meeting of the central committee of Fatah, the divided main component of the PLO (AFP reports).

Locked up 31 years for knowing no English

From Trevor Fishlock New York

Thirty-one years ago, David Tom was locked up in a mental institution after doctors decided he was mad. But they did not speak to him, nor he to them, because he had no English and the authorities found no one who could speak his dialect of Chinese.

Over the years he learnt only a few words of English including "No not crazy, why I here?"

He was right and the doctors wrong. Now, after a four-year legal battle, he is free and, at the age of 54, is learning to live outside an institution. He has been awarded \$140,000 compensation. He does not talk about his 31 lost years.

Mr Tom arrived in the United States as an illegal immigrant and worked in a restaurant kitchen in San Francisco. Later he moved to Chicago but learned no English because he lived his life within the large Chinese community there.

He became ill with tuberculosis and, isolated and frightened, had a nervous breakdown. Doctors diagnosed schizophrenia, but they found nobody to talk to him. His brother, also living in Chicago, did not volunteer to help him. He, too, was an illegal immigrant and feared he would be deported if he made himself known.

So Mr Tom spent his life in four institutions, talking with no one. It was not until 1978 that he had a conversation in his native tongue. He was taken out for a meal in a Chinese restaurant and began talking to the cook.

He told the cook his story and asked for help. The cook told the hospital worker accompanying him that in his view Mr Tom was not mentally ill and that started the process which led to his freedom this week.

He is now in the care of Mr Patrick Murphy, a court-appointed guardian. Mr Murphy, a lawyer, said yesterday: "He is living with Chinese people who are helping to guide him back to normal life. Naturally he has been damaged by being locked up for 31 years. He is frightened that he will be sent back."

Climbers airlifted off by order of Muldoon

Timaru, New Zealand (Reuters)

Seven disabled Japanese climbers were airlifted off New Zealand's highest peak on the orders of the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Muldoon.

All members of the Tokyo Deaf and Mute Climbing Society, they were flown down from Mount Cook by Air Force helicopter after ignoring earlier warnings that conditions on the 12,421ft mountain were dangerous.

"They have done their training on Mount Fujiyama where you can walk to the top and back on a Sunday afternoon," Mr Muldoon said. "I suppose there will be a bit of a fuss, but there would have been a worse fuss if they got themselves killed."

They have done their training on Mount Fujiyama where you can walk to the top and back on a Sunday afternoon," Mr Muldoon said. "I suppose there will be a bit of a fuss, but there would have been a worse fuss if they got themselves killed."

Lady Young to visit Grenada

Lady Young, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, will visit Grenada between January 5 and 7, the Foreign Office announced. It will be the first visit by a British minister since the US invasion.

When Lady Young meets the Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, and members of the Interim Council, the question of aid will be high on the agenda. Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, will also be visiting Grenada next week.

Two survive in plane wreckage

Albuquerque, New Mexico (Reuters) - A pilot and his son are in hospital after surviving the five days of freezing temperatures in the wreckage of a light aircraft that crashed in rugged mountains near here.

Mr Tony Mink, aged 36, an aircraft dealer, and his son Brian, aged 14, were found by a search helicopter. Mr Mink's wife, Charlene, died shortly after the crash.

Royal escape

Salzburg (Reuters) - Princess Margriet of The Netherlands and her husband and two sons escaped unhurt from a two-car collision which killed a 20-year-old West German, the other driver near here. The princess is a sister of Queen Beatrix.

Test-tube trio

Kiel (AP) - A West German woman, aged 26, has given birth to Europe's first set of test-tube triplets, doctors announced here. The babies, all boys, were delivered by Caesarian section and they and their mother are doing fine.

Writer punished

Moscow (Reuters) - Michel Heller, the Russian writer who has lived in France for the past decade, was deprived of his Soviet citizenship in an official decree published here. It accused him of "systematic hostile activities".

Tourists hurt

Budapest (AP) - Sixteen West German tourists were injured, six of them seriously, when their bus crashed into a ditch while being overtaken by a lorry in dense fog. The Hungarian lorry driver was arrested.

Plague victims

Dar es Salaam (Reuters) - Plague has killed 10 more people in northern Tanzania, bringing the death toll over the past two weeks to 29.

Artful dodgers

Manila (Reuters) - About 40 boys apparently trained by modern-day Filipino Fagin as petty thieves, pickpockets and bag-snatchers have been arrested here. They ranged in age from six to 14.

Explosions at mosques cause panic

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

The recent upsurge of terrorist attacks inside Israel and the occupied territories intensified yesterday with the explosion of two booby-trapped grenades outside mosques in the West Bank city of Hebron, and a narrowly failed attempt to blow up a crowded bus full of Jewish passengers in Jerusalem.

The bomb on the bus was safely defused after being spotted under a seat as the vehicle was driving close to the main open air market. Earlier this month, Mr Yasser Arafat's wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for a similar attack in which six Jews were killed, and more than 30 injured.

Yesterday one Islamic holy man was injured in the Hebron blast, both of which were claimed in a call to Israel radio by an extreme right-wing Jewish organization called Terror Against Terror (words, which in their original Hebrew make up the ominous acronym, TNT). The Israeli Army-issue fragmentation grenades were the same as those used in nine similar attacks against Arab or Christian targets in and around Jerusalem over the past three weeks.

The PLO's bomb is assumed to have been the catalyst which prompted the latest wave of Jewish revenge attacks. Yesterday's Mosque explosions caused mass panic throughout the West Bank because the caller claimed that two more attacks against Arab targets were planned later.

Mr Mustafa Nathe, the Hebron Arab Mayor, accused the Israeli military authorities of overall responsibility for the mosque explosion, and called for a determined effort to arrest the culprits. No arrests have yet been made for the string of recent attacks claimed by Terror Against Terror, and the Government has been blamed for not ensuring a proper investigation.



Mission to Syria: Mr Jackson (right) and his party on the flight from New York

Hopeful Jackson flies to Damascus

Frankfurt (AP) - The Rev Jesse Jackson left yesterday on the second leg of his journey to Syria, saying he was hopeful about arranging the release of the US Navy pilot Lieutenant Robert Goodman, captured during an American raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon.

The point is, if we do nothing, nothing will happen," he said after resting in a VIP lounge following an overnight flight from New York.

Mr Jackson, accompanied by a delegation of US clergymen, left for Damascus on a Lufthansa flight.

The civil rights leader and Democratic presidential candidate told reporters that neither race nor politics played a role in his decision to fly to Syria.

"This is a truly American matter. I have been involved in humanitarian missions in the past," Mr Jackson said he was carrying a letter from Lieutenant Goodman's mother, who lives in New York. He spoke to her by telephone shortly before leaving Frankfurt and said he promised to try to arrange a telephone call from her son if possible.

"We will appeal to President Assad (of Syria) to release him on humanitarian grounds."

US fails to muster much support for its threat of withdrawal

Britain tries to change Unesco from within

The British Government has no intention of following the United States' decision to withdraw from Unesco, the cultural agency of the United Nations.

This was made clear yesterday in a Foreign Office statement which emphasizes that Britain is better placed to achieve improvements and economies from within the organization.

Washington's reasons for withdrawal were given as the alleged extravagance of Unesco and its "hostilities" to a free society.

The Foreign Office statement says: "The United Kingdom fully understands the reasons which have led the United States to take their decision to withdraw. We have always been foremost among those member-countries of Unesco which have been critical of the organization's performance."

"We have, in particular, led the resistance to all attempts to restrict the freedom of the media through a 'New World Information and Communications Order', and to redefine human rights in a way which would only restrict them for the individual."

"We have fought hard to keep down the organization's costs, particularly at its Paris headquarters."

During the last general conference in October-November, 1983, the UK, together with other like-minded countries, secured a significant reduction in the organization's proposed budget and successfully resisted attempts to encroach on the freedom of the media.

"More needs to be done. The UK will continue to make every effort for radical improvements in the organization's programmes and management."

WASHINGTON: Although the Reagan Administration has said it would be prepared to reconsider its decision to withdraw if Unesco mends its ways, American officials believe it most unlikely the organization could reform itself sufficiently in time to permit this (Nicholas Ashford writes).

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand Government is studying whether to continue its contributions to Unesco the Foreign Minister, Mr Warren Cooper, confirmed today (AFP reports).

There was growing concern in New Zealand at "the heavy administrative costs"

Spending will rise but contributions fall

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Few things are simple at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the budget is probably least simple of all.

Although some 60 per cent of Unesco's spending is in French francs, it levies contributions and keeps accounts in US dollars. When drawing up the budget, Unesco therefore assumes a dollar-franc exchange rate for two years ahead - and errs on the cautious side.

So when the Unesco director-general proposed the 1984-85 budget, a two-year total of \$403.1 (£278m), eight Western nations, headed by the US and including Britain, protested. The assumed exchange rate of 6.45 francs to the dollar was too low, they argued. Some of the eight also insisted on no increase in the budget instead of one of 6.1 per cent.

The eight were able to send the budget back for revision. Last month the general conference passed a new two-year figure: \$374.4m. Furthermore, Unesco asked the 152 members to pay only \$344.7m.

In fact, the cut was not what it seemed: Unesco was digging into past over-payments resulting from unrealistic dollar-franc exchange rates. So, almost miraculously, spending for 1984-85 will rise by about \$10m, or 4.5 per cent, while contributions will fall by about 10 per cent.

But the percentage that members pay is unchanged. Britain's assessment is 4.61 per cent of the total, based on a formula that includes population and national income. But the \$15.85m it is due to pay will turn out to be far less - thanks again to the currency fluctuations fund, the 1984 contribution of \$7.94m will be reduced to \$4.86m.

West Germany's share of the total is 8.44 per cent and France's is 6.43 per cent. Japan, because of its larger population and wealth, pays 10.9 per cent. The Soviet Union, with far more people than Japan contributes 10.41 per cent, owing to its lower per capita income.

Italy will contribute 3.69 per cent, Canada 3.04 per cent, Spain 1.91 per cent, East Germany 1.37 per cent, Brazil 1.37 and Sweden 1.30 per cent. The remaining 141 countries' contributions totals 22.24 per cent.

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Britain gives up 95-year responsibility for tiny Brunei at midnight tonight

From David Watts, Singapore

Britain gives up the last of its direct responsibilities in South-East Asia at midnight today, when the tiny state of Brunei attains full independence.

Reading a short declaration of independence in the centre of his capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the Sultan, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, will then bring to an end 95 years of British protection for the enclave on the north coast of Borneo.

Sole responsibility for some 200,000 souls will once again pass to the Sultan's family which has held power there for the last 400 years.



Sir Muda: Responsibility for 200,000 people

With the Sultan will be other members of the royal family and the government, who will also attend prayers earlier on at the Omar Ali Saifuddin mosque. It was named after the present Sultan's father, who has been the power behind Brunei's dogged maintenance of the British connexion for so long.

Early next year, Brunei will take its place as the sixth member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations. It will be not only the richest per capita in the group but also arguably the most heavily armed. It is also expected to



apply to join the United Nations.

But while tonight's celebrations will mark the end of British responsibility for Brunei's defence and foreign affairs, the British connexion will remain close for the foreseeable future.

A large amount of Brunei's foreign financial investments will still be in the hands of the Crown Agents, a British Gurkha battalion will be stationed at the oil fields and some 150 Britons will remain with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment to help bring into service British Rapier anti-aircraft missiles.

But the historic handing over of power to the young Sultan will pass with hardly a ripple in the little sultanate. The streets are decked with flags and banners proclaiming merdeka (Independence), but in reality there will be no change in the lives of Bruneians. They are already well used to the luxuries of the twentieth century and well protected from the harsh world beyond the South China Sea by seemingly endless oil

Microchip smuggling ring broken

From Our Own Correspondent Singapore

Advanced microchips smuggled through Singapore are being channelled to East block countries. The Singapore and Malaysian authorities appear to have broken a sophisticated smuggling ring with the arrest of three people in Singapore but investigations are continuing and further arrests are expected.

The Singapore Government is reluctant to say very much and so far the police have not named those arrested or revealed the capacity of the stolen chips. But it is clear that investigations have been under way for some time since the chips began disappearing from the Panang Malaysia plant of the American firm Mosteck.

Chips started to go missing some months ago. A few would be stolen during shipment from the factory in north-west Malaysia to be sold under the counter in some of the dozens of outlets for computer equipment in Singapore.

Mosteck tightened its security and the problem disappeared, but the smugglers began staging fake accidents and hijackings during which the chips would be misappropriated and passed, through the Singapore computer stores, into the hands of visiting Indians posing as tourists. They would buy the chips for onward transmission.

The chips were then apparently channelled through India to countries of the East block in Europe or the Soviet Union, though the police so far have not named the countries involved.

The three arrests were made during raids by Singapore police on Christmas Day.

The arrests were prompted by a particularly spectacular mishap in Malaysia when a lorry carrying chips worth 1m ringgit (about £300,000) lost its cargo.

Acid leak sends poison cloud over Nuremberg

Nuremberg (AP) - Sixteen people, including six policemen, were taken to hospital yesterday after nitric acid leaking from a tanker lorry created a poison cloud on the east side of Nuremberg.

Between 30 and 40 people were temporarily evacuated from their homes and others in the affected area were told to shut all doors and windows. Firemen declared the danger to be over after three hours.

Closure warning to Peugeot plant

Paris (Reuters) - The management of the Peugeot Car Division told union representatives at its strike-bound Talbot car plant at Poissy yesterday that the factory would be closed indefinitely from Monday, and that salaries would not be paid.

They said in a statement that workers illegally occupying the plant had prevented essential maintenance work from being carried out to enable production to start on January 2.

About 100 striking workers occupying the plant refused for the second day running yesterday to allow in the maintenance teams. The rebel trade unionists are defying a court order to leave.

The statement said the plant would reopen only when conditions had returned to normal. The plant has been paralysed by a strike for the past three weeks, and today's move has cast doubts over Talbot's future. Peugeot, which purchased Talbot from Chrysler in 1978, earlier this week announced moves to distance itself legally from Talbot.

New foreign minister in North Korea

Tokyo (Reuters) - Mr Ho Dam, North Korea's Foreign Minister, who held the post for 13 years, was replaced yesterday by Mr Kim Yong Nam, the North Korean Central News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored here, said Mr Ho had been removed from the Foreign Ministry portfolio and his deputy premiership and transferred.

Mr Kim is a politburo member, a secretary of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers (Communist) Party and head of the party's international affairs department.

120 spend night on high wire

Bellinzona, Switzerland (AP) - About 120 passengers descending from the 6,471 ft Mt Tamaro were trapped in 30 blocked cable cars for up to 12 hours before the last were freed early yesterday in a spectacular rescue operation.

Police said no one was injured. Rescuers from the Swiss Alpine Club, lowered from helicopters on ropes or hoisting themselves from cable car to cable car after climbing up via supporting pylons, freed most by lowering the passengers to the ground in nets, one by one. Others were picked up directly by helicopters. Fire ladders were used in evacuating those trapped in cars closer to the ground.

Unita conduct praised by freed captives

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Twenty-six foreigners released by the Angolan guerrilla group Unita spent their first day of freedom yesterday and said they were well-treated during months as hostages.

Most of the group, born of Portuguese parents in Angola, a former Portuguese colony, were preparing to leave for Lisbon last night and a new life in Portugal.

"I feel sad about leaving Angola - I had everything there," said Senhor Antonio Silva, aged 31, "but I'm young and can restart life in Portugal."

Senhor Silva, his wife and two children and 17 other Portuguese were among the 26 who flew in from Angola on Thursday on a Red Cross flight. The group, which also included two Spaniards, a Uruguayan and a Brazilian, was set free in a Christmas amnesty by Unita and its leader Dr Jonas Savimbi, who is fighting the Marxist government in Luanda.

The Angolan-born Senhor Silva, captured nine months ago in Alto Catumbelo province south of the capital, spoke with neither bitterness nor emotion of his 78-day trek with his Unita captors in which they covered 950 miles.



The rescue: Two children climbing out of their stalled cable car into a rescue box after being trapped for several hours.

Attack on Angola deplored by UK

Britain yesterday condemned South African incursions into Angola and the bombing of the headquarters there of the Namibian nationalist movement, Swapo.

The Foreign Office issued a statement deploring the action, saying: "We have repeatedly condemned violence in Southern Africa, from whichever quarter it comes, and we supported the recent Security Council resolution calling for the withdrawal of South African forces from Angolan territory."

"We therefore cannot but deplore this latest South African action, and regret the loss of life which has resulted. We believe that the withdrawal of South African troops, and indeed of all foreign troops, from Angola, would improve the prospects for a peaceful independence settlement in Namibia."

Mr Robert Hughes, Labour MP for Aberdeen North and Chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, called on the Government to consider withdrawing the British Ambassador from Pretoria as a protest at South Africa's military action.

He has also sent a telegram on behalf of the movement to Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, urging him to summon the South African Ambassador in London to the Foreign Office for an official protest.

● LISBON: Angola claimed yesterday that South Africa had increased the strength of its forces involved in the offensive into Southern Angola (AP reports).

The official news agency Angop said in a broadcast monitored here that three South African motorized brigades, 100 aircraft and artillery units using 140mm and 155mm guns were engaged in fierce battle in three Southern Angolan provinces.

The report said the incursion was aimed at weakening the combat strength of Angolan defence forces and that only South African and Angolan troops were involved in the fighting.

● PRETORIA: South Africa said nine of its soldiers had died in the three-week action and one is missing for the loss of at least 52 Swapo fighters (Reuters reports).



The relief: A child rescued from one of the 30 stalled cable cars reunited with his father.

Germans usher in new year with cable TV network

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Tomorrow morning at 10.30, to the introduction of Handel's Firework Music, West Germany's first private television station begins broadcasting. About 1,000 homes in Ludwigshafen, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's home town, will be able to tune in to the first experimental cable television network in this country.

After bitter and still unresolved argument, much of it along party political lines, Bonn has given the go-ahead for a pilot project which ends the monopoly of the two publicly controlled networks. Although the response so far in this industrial town on the Rhine has been distinctly cool - falling well below the expected 30,000 viewers thought necessary to test the concept - state governments, advertisers, television executives and newspapers will be watching the programme keenly and evaluating the response.

Five years ago the prime ministers of the federal states agreed to test cable television in four cities, and the post office began laying cables in Ludwigshafen and in Munich, Dortmund and West Berlin where broadcasts will also begin later.

Commercial television as such does not exist in this country, and has long been a touchy topic. The two public networks, ARD and ZDF, founded on the basis and tradition of the first television broadcasting set up with the help of the British in Hamburg in 1952, are carefully balanced in the political allegiances of their editors and senior executives.

Social Democrats, fearing the influence of powerful Conservative media magnates, have long opposed any change in the present set-up. They have given warnings that commercial broadcasting would develop in the way it has in America. The Christian Democrats, however, want greater competition in the airwaves and have championed cable television. Significantly it is in Rhineland-Palatinate, a CDU-

ruled land that the first experiment is to begin. Chancellor Kohl will not be among those able to tune in tomorrow as only part of Ludwigshafen is hooked up. There will be no special ceremony for the start of the experiment, which is under the aegis of the specially created City Cable Communication Authority.

The copper cables have a 24-channel capacity, but although hundreds of interest groups applied to make programmes, the pilot project will be confined to one channel and most programmes will be supplied by a Frankfurt cable and satellite company.

Tomorrow's broadcasts will include a documentary, Hansel and Gretel, a puppet film with the singer Engelbert Humperdinck, and 10-minute news broadcasts produced by the editorial team of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

The newspaper has contracted to supply news from its correspondents for four daily broadcasts. The company will also provide during its evening broadcasts two feature films, a cartoon and music each day.

During the rest of the day the cable will carry music compiled specially by ZDF, educational programmes from the south-west regional ARD channel, broadcasts by local religious groups and schools and even what the City Cable Authority has called an "open channel" allowing ordinary citizens access to the air - though viewer interest is likely to be limited.

Ludwigshafen has also made arrangements to receive broadcasts from British-based English-language satellite television, Sky Channel, owned by the Murdoch group, to begin broadcasting.

The Frankfurt company will spend over 100m marks (£25m) on programmes in the coming year, though it expects only a very meagre return at first. Advertising will bring in virtually nothing from Ludwigshafen.

Berlin rail transfer deal signed

From Our Own Correspondent Berlin

The agreement transferring ownership and control of the West Berlin section of the city's S-Bahn (elevated urban railway) from the East German Reichsbahn was signed in East Berlin yesterday by the East German Minister of Transport and a member of the west Berlin Senat.

The agreement, endorsed by the Western allies because it does not impinge on wider questions of the status of Berlin transfers 90 miles of track to the control of the West Berlin Transport Authority on January 9. Immediate cuts will be made in the loss-making service, at present operating over only 47 miles of track.

Dr Richard von Weizsacker, the Chief Burgomaster of West Berlin, welcomed the agreement as an important event for Berlin and for East-West relations.

Pershings 'ready for action'

Bonn (AP) - The first battery of anti-missile Pershing 2 nuclear missiles in Western Europe is "ready for action", the West German Defence Ministry confirmed yesterday.

Police detained a small group of anti-missile protesters who attempted to block the gate at the US Army's Mutlangen base, near Stuttgart, where the new medium range rockets are stationed.

Nato began deploying 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe after the Soviet Union suspended arms talks with the United States last month in Geneva.

The Atlantic alliance believes the missiles are needed to counter the Soviet build-up of medium range SS20 rockets in recent years. The faster, more accurate Pershing 2s are replacing the Pershing 1As in West Germany.

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The South African spy scandal

West fears leaks from secret Nato-link base

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The discovery that Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, former commander of the naval dockyard had been spying for the Soviet Union for the past 20 years was a deeply embarrassing, but also oddly reassuring, experience for the South African Government. This week he was convicted of treason by the Cape Supreme Court.

It was obviously worrying that Gerhardt and his Swiss-born wife, Ruth, who assisted him in his spying from the early 1970s onwards should for so long have eluded the vaunted detective powers of South Africa's feared intelligence manicheise.

On the other hand, the case furnished welcome evidence to support Pretoria's belief (widely regarded abroad as exaggerated) that South Africa is a prime target of Soviet subversion because of its geographic minerals vital to the economies of the West.

But how much damage did Gerhardt do? The question is difficult to answer, because the trial, which began on September 5, was held in *Cameru* throughout and details of the state's evidence have accordingly, not been made public.

The judge's edited version of his finding revealed only that Gerhardt, who is 48, had been employed by the Soviet Union since 1964, that he made five visits to Moscow between 1964 and his arrest in January this year (accompanied on two occasions by his wife) and that he transmitted military secrets to the Soviet Union.

Gerhardt, who joined the South African Navy 30 years ago, was one of four commandants at Simonstown. He had been commander of the dockyard for three years. Before that he was on the technical staff at the South African Defence Force's headquarters in Pretoria.

Simonstown, which was used by Britain until the mid-1970s, is the most developed naval dockyard on the African coastline outside the Mediter-

anean. It is strategically located and has extensive repair, maintenance and construction facilities.

Gerhardt would have had an intimate knowledge of the activities of South Africa's small navy, including its three French-built Daphne-class submarines. It seems unlikely, however, that information about the movements of the South African fleet, which is largely confined to coastal patrol role, could have held much interest for the Russians.

Far more serious, from the point of view of Western security, was the access Gerhardt may or may not have had to Silvermine, the secret maritime tracking station concealed under tons of reinforced concrete in a hillside between Cape Town and Simonstown.

South Africa's attempts to be openly accepted into the Western military block, notably through the creation of a South Atlantic Treaty Organization (Sato) to match Nato, have repeatedly been rebuffed because of the country's race policies. But it has long had an unofficial, back-door association with Nato.

Much of the electronic equipment used at Silvermine, which was built about 10 years ago at a time of increasing Western concern about Soviet naval expansion, was furnished by Nato countries. There is a steady flow of intelligence between Pretoria and Western capitals.

It has been suggested that, though Silvermine, which carries out detailed, round-the-clock monitoring of all shipping movements in the South Atlantic and Indian oceans, Gerhardt could have passed the Russians information on the disposition of the British fleet during the Falklands conflict.

Others say, however, that the Russians would have had perfectly satisfactory independent means of finding this out. Another period in Gerhardt's career that has aroused interest

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Rajiv proves a success but Gandhi party fails to heal divisions

From Michael Hamby, Calcutta

Half a million Bengalis turned out yesterday to watch Mrs Indira Gandhi at the climax to her party's conference here. The brigade parade ground on the Calcutta maidan was a sea of blue-black hair to the point sight was lost in the crowd's own dust.

She has made it plain that her party stands for socialism and secularism, regaining some of the ground she lost earlier in the year when she was depicted as a champion of the Hindus against the minorities, and seizing the high lands on the left of her opposition.

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Tough ally of Australian Liberals quits politics

From Douglas Aiton, Melbourne

One of the most forceful personalities in Australian politics for the last two decades, Mr Douglas Anthony is to resign both from Parliament and the leadership of the right-wing National Party.

Autonomy deal put to Tamils

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo



Mr Anthony: Epitome of the suburban Australian

President Jayewardene has circulated a 14-point proposal to solve the problems of the Tamil minority community among leaders of eight main political parties.



Mr Wick: The practice denied, then admitted

Friend of Reagan in taping row

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr Charles Wick, the accident-prone director of the United States Information Agency (USIA), has become embroiled in a new controversy - this time over his practice of secretly tape-recording his telephone calls.

Worse, when confronted by two New York Times journalists with evidence of his surreptitious activities, he indignantly denied the allegations.

Partners in fun

The Wizard of Oz, Churchill, Bromley

The two pantomime witches and their rhyming couplets rather took me by surprise, but without a dame, a song placard or other compliments to the panto season, The Wizard of Oz happily remains a real musical.

Miss Duncan, having first appeared as the same character in The Wiz - and how many actresses have achieved that double - would be perfect for a West End pocket musical next time a good one turns up.

Bringing the house down

Dick Whittington, Richmond

Whatever the difficulties inflicted on it elsewhere, pantomime has a safe home in Richmond, and this show needs no recommendation to the theatre's past customers.



Dreadlocked mane meets unaffected charm: Charlie Drake and Celena Duncan as the Lion and Dorothy.

of getting a move on, but at the sight of his dreadlocked mane and woolly orange suit like an armchair turned inside out, it is hard to keep a straight face.

Dance

Coppella, Sadler's Wells

Back at its home theatre after a long tour of Canada and a brief visit to its more familiar British regional stomping grounds, Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet opened its short season on Thursday with Coppella, which continues until tonight.

Radio Danger for 4

This is the day for retrospects, a tradition I propose to ignore, however, because I think this year a prospect may be more appropriate - even if initially it goes no further than next Tuesday, when the evening changes to Radio 4 announced in October by its controller, David Hatch, come into operation.

These changes were previewed by David Hewson in The Times of October 19: briefly they consist of the deferment of Kaleidoscope until 9.45 pm (to allow it to govern first nights), the advancing of A Book at Bedtime to 10.15 pm (so that book and national average bedtime more nearly coincide) and the combining of The World Tonight and The Financial World Tonight into a single hour-long sequence at 10.30 - except on Fridays when it will last only 45 minutes to allow Week Ending a full half hour.

All this at first glance sounds moderate and well-intentioned. At the same time, in my manifestation as typical Radio 4 listener (ie. deeply neurotic about change), I cannot help but notice that two of its most obvious effects are to remove that useful 30-minute niche between 10.30 and 11 and to enlarge by 15 minutes the already sufficiently extensive empire of news and current affairs.

Television Penelope again

Irving Wardle

There is a danger to players supporting Penelope Keith that they will be reduced to props, such is her stature and exuberance. She is the epitome of the bourgeoisie, her accent bouncing remorselessly off the walls. One hears its equivalent in Hampstead bookshops putting assistants in their place and browsers' thoughts to flight.

Concert

Hilliard Ensemble, Wigmore Hall

There may have been punch in the interval on Thursday but 'Songbooks', a new year's entertainment by the six-part male-voice Hilliard Ensemble, was - by no means all cakes and ale.

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Figueiredo rejects direct election of successor

From Our Correspondent, São Paulo

President Joao Figueiredo of Brazil has rejected proposals that his successor to take over in March 1985 should be chosen by direct popular vote.

The President's statement came as the main opposition party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), launched a national crusade for a return to direct voting for the presidency, last exercised in 1960.

Opposition politicians are hoping that events in Argentina will give impetus to Brazil's faltering progress towards full democracy.

presidency is causing pressure in Brazil to build up for the same to happen here.

Señor Alfonsín, who attended the March inauguration of the PMDB Governor of São Paulo State, Senator Franco Montoro, has been visited by virtually the entire PMDB leadership in recent weeks.

freezing wages, is being watched with great interest, even though most economists feel it would not work here.

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Chile police hose women from streets

Santiago (Reuters) - Police used water cannon to disperse groups of chanting women protesting on the streets of Santiago against Chile's military Government.

The demonstrators had gathered on Thursday night after a rally by thousands of women at a theatre in the capital. They briefly held up traffic outside the theatre, singing and chanting anti-Government slogans, before the police dispersed them.

The rally, supported by almost every opposition women's group, featured singing, poetry, slide shows and calls for an immediate return to democracy.

Seven of the country's 13 regions, where more than half Chile's 11 million people live, were affected. In the last week there have also been two shooting attacks on policemen and a bomb was planted on the main railway line to the south.

A group calling itself the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front sent journalists a statement claiming responsibility for earlier bomb attacks.

Union Court ruling Chile's Supreme Court has ruled that union officials dismissed by the state-owned copper corporation Codelco can still stand for reelection.

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The demonstrators had gathered on Thursday night after a rally by thousands of women at a theatre in the capital. They briefly held up traffic outside the theatre, singing and chanting anti-Government slogans, before the police dispersed them.

The rally, supported by almost every opposition women's group, featured singing, poetry, slide shows and calls for an immediate return to democracy.

Seven of the country's 13 regions, where more than half Chile's 11 million people live, were affected. In the last week there have also been two shooting attacks on policemen and a bomb was planted on the main railway line to the south.

A group calling itself the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front sent journalists a statement claiming responsibility for earlier bomb attacks.

Union Court ruling Chile's Supreme Court has ruled that union officials dismissed by the state-owned copper corporation Codelco can still stand for reelection.

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SPORTING DIARY

Cricket stars

The England cricket touring party lined up to go to Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan last week looking as if they were really going to Krypton...

Moral losers

That promising third division footballer, I. T. Botham, has been getting rapped over the knuckles for his behaviour lately.

Dire choice

David Gower has been getting in the mood for the Fijiian stage of the tour by going into Radio 4's Desert Island Discs studio.

BARRY FANTONI



"At least they get you used to wearing a hearing aid"

Game of the name

There is always a touch of the Irish in National Hunt racing, but was Ladbrokes going too far with its race card competition on Boxing Day...

Is this the ultimate honour for the Yorkshire whizz kid trainer Michael Dickinson? At Kempton on Boxing Day he was buried beneath a locusts swarm of autograph seekers...

Money matters

The president of Inter-Milan football club, Ivanoe Fraizzoli, commenting on allegations by the Dutch club, Groningen...

Sack record

Some people consider that Peter Carey was prematurely sacked as manager of the Tottenham Hotspur side, Barking, 48 hours before what would have been one of the greatest days of his career...

Nightmare

Richard Greenwood, the England rugby coach with a 100 per cent record (1 out of 1) had a pudding-induced nightmare over Christmas, and dreamt that next weekend's England trial game had somehow become confused with American football...

Simon Barnes

Are we helping to fulfil George Orwell's prophecies?

Shadow of the Thought Police

by Neil Kinnock



Nineteen Eighty Four was satire, not prophecy. Orwell was cautioning against complacency towards dictatorialism, small or great, plutocratic or poliburocratic.

If the satire has an edge of prophecy it is because some of Orwell's caps come uncomfortably close to fitting heads today.

Orwell, whatever the tom-robbers say, was a radical democratic socialist, a fierce libertarian, a patriot for the decency which he sometimes saw practised (and always sought to nourish) in Britain.

The combination of qualities made him willing to deal with the realization that progress was not automatic and that, for the first time in two centuries, it was reasonable to acknowledge that the future could be worse than the past.

At that level, Nineteen Eighty-Four is a plain indictment of totalitarianism that can be applauded by any freedom-lover.

When coupled with old-age ruthlessness, the brand-new techniques of communication, persuasion, organization and destruction could, he knew, produce power more absolute than anything previously known.

As they rewrote The Times and falsified history, Winston Smith and his companions in the Ministry of Truth were all caricatures of intellectuals who, in their brain and bones, know better, but stick to their positions rather than their convictions.

The proles, meanwhile, were rarely bothered by Thought Police or telly screens. They had "films, football, beer and, above all, gambling to fill up the horizons of their minds."

Being Orwell he naturally put the major obligation for resistance on his own class - the intelligentsia of the Outer Party - even when invariably regarding them as spineless spongers.

As they rewrote The Times and falsified history, Winston Smith and his companions in the Ministry of Truth were all caricatures of intellectuals who, in their brain and bones, know better, but stick to their positions rather than their convictions.

The sole, self-perpetuating reason for the existence of "Oligarchical Collectivism", the political regime of Oceania, is the maintenance of the status quo.

The burning off of "the surplus value" by military expenditure which Emmanuel Goldstein's testament explains, preserves the existing elites and prevents the abolition of poverty.

process", rather than surveillance and terror that kept them in control. Our kind of state, Orwell knew, is different. It barely tolerates the commercial sale of such things and the prolefeed is not limited to one class. He did exaggerate. Satirists do.

These satires of Nineteen Eighty-Four are not as widely quoted as those of the mangling of language. But they are strong and perceptive and exceeded in significance only by Orwell's central satirical target - the rigidly hierarchical society, the oligarchical economy, the permanent warfare of the superpower Oceania.

The sole, self-perpetuating reason for the existence of "Oligarchical Collectivism", the political regime of Oceania, is the maintenance of the status quo. The whole edifice of organized hate, of continual shortage and of social paralysis has at its base the "burning off" of "the surplus value" by military expenditure.

"Don't let it happen" he said. "It depends on you." And you, and you. The author is Leader of the Labour Party.

A new avenue for the architects

Suresh Karadi

Mr Michael Manser has made it his mission as president of the Royal Institute of British Architects to attack our planning laws which, he maintains, inhibit and stifle the production of good modern architecture.

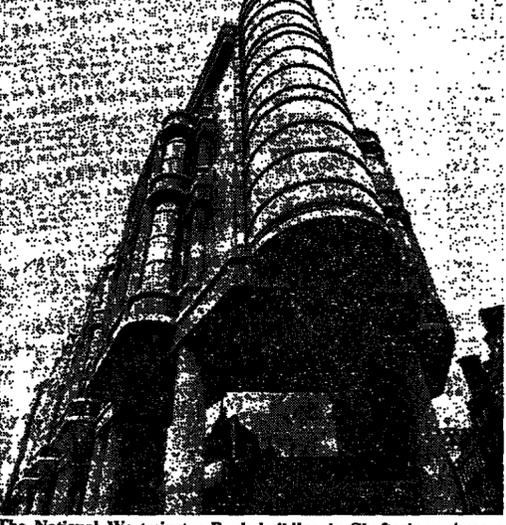
I disagree. The architecture of the last 45 years would have been even worse without control. Mr Manser, like most architects, is reluctant to accept that our present planning laws are the democratic expression of widespread public revulsion to what the Modern Movement effortlessly achieved in the 1950s and 1960s.

Architects are now being obliged to respect and to respond to individual sites and, as a result, are beginning to rediscover all those once-commonplace devices which gave visual interest and human scale to buildings, but which were proscribed for decades by the strict, puritan canons of the Modern Movement.

Cut through in the 1880s as a traffic improvement, Shaftesbury Avenue has always been lined with mediocre buildings and the chief interest of the street lies in its sinuous course. The existing buildings in the street do, however, have the virtue of consistency of scale combined with variety in colour and texture.

The largest of the new buildings is part of a long-running controversy, the redevelopment of Piccadilly Circus. The site, which once housed the Trocadero Restaurant off Shaftesbury Avenue, has now been largely rebuilt as a complex of shops and restaurants. Many of the existing buildings have been retained while new facades have appeared.

These new facades, identical in style, are the work of those very professional commercial architects, Fitzroy Robinson & Partners. The Shaftesbury Avenue facade is given depth and subtlety by having a structure of painted metal poles and panels which stand proud of the large first-floor windows which light the restaurants behind.



The National Westminster Bank building in Shaftesbury Avenue: traditional bay windows mixed with modern bronze metal

The skyline is given interest by modelling the flat metal parapet into a type of battlement with flagpoles, and the whole facade does something which seemed quite impossible a few years back: it actually bends to follow the line of the street.

Over the road is a more distinguished essay in this manner: the block housing a new National Westminster Bank office designed by Powell & Moya, a firm usually associated with university buildings.

Another happy device exploits the acute corner with Denman Street. Here is a feature which has its origins in both the heroic pioneer days of the Modern Movement, and which yet recalls a Victorian corner treatment: a curved glass wall enclosing a circular staircase which rises almost the whole height of the building.

When he wrote of sailors riding it out at anchor, "half-seas over between England and Ireland". A little later, in The Relapse, one of those seventeenth-century comedians remarks: "So, matters go swimmingly." You could still say, "Oh, things are going swimmingly today, without sounding hopelessly old-fashioned."

Tommy Handley turned into a raging catch phrase in 1770, was actually a revival of a saying that had been around since circa 1700. The criminal and disaffected classes had been calling police officers "pigs" for two centuries before the young of the Demonstration Generation rediscovered the slang in the 1960s.

"My feet are killing me" is at least a century old. "I'll have your guts for garters" may sound like a twentieth-century coinage by a sergeant-major. It has a long literary history, going back at least to Robert Greene's James the Fourth, 1598: "I'll make garters of thy guts, thou villain."

We are continually using what we think are new words for old. But quite often they are not as new as we suppose.

When he wrote of sailors riding it out at anchor, "half-seas over between England and Ireland". A little later, in The Relapse, one of those seventeenth-century comedians remarks: "So, matters go swimmingly." You could still say, "Oh, things are going swimmingly today, without sounding hopelessly old-fashioned."

Over the road is a more distinguished essay in this manner: the block housing a new National Westminster Bank office designed by Powell & Moya, a firm usually associated with university buildings. Again this block is clearly modern. The structure, of hammered concrete, is expressed externally and the intervening spaces are filled with glass and bronze metal. But again,

the facade is given depth and interest by the old and excellent device of the bay window, and the architects clearly appreciated that the building will always be seen at an angle.

Another happy device exploits the acute corner with Denman Street. Here is a feature which has its origins in both the heroic pioneer days of the Modern Movement, and which yet recalls a Victorian corner treatment: a curved glass wall enclosing a circular staircase which rises almost the whole height of the building. This adds that often bogus element of "excitement" with which modern architects always justify their work, but it comes within a design which is sober, rational and - again - in harmony with its neighbours. Sir Philip Powell and

his team have designed one of the best modern buildings in London. Further up Shaftesbury Avenue, however, is an example of what happens when an architect responds to planning controls in a cynical rather than a constructive spirit.

It has a red brick wall with dull windows arranged between projecting string-courses, and its long length is relieved only by half-hearted projecting bays. At the corners, this vaguely Tudor style expresses itself in feeble turrets, supported on cantilevered-out concrete bases which, maddeningly, do not correspond with the line of the concrete linted above.

This design, which makes a minimal concession to the notion of responding to the Victorian character of Shaftesbury Avenue, is the work of Richard Siefert & Partners, a firm celebrated for its ability to take full advantage of the planning laws, and whose production encompasses every style fashionable since the last war. Sometimes Siefert's modern work is good, as with Centre Point, but now that a degree of traditionalism is the order of the day, he has produced a grudging and cynical essay in a sort of "post-Modernism".

Even this practice has its virtues, however. It follows the concave line of the street; it uses a mellow red brick (though Colcutt's Theatre over the road shows how broad masses of brick are better relieved with terracotta) and there is some attempt to give the facade a more varied character.

Michael Manser maintains that "essential freedom of expression [is] now denied and our street scenes are beginning to look dull and lifeless for its lack." Pace Mr Manser, these three new buildings are responses to the planning laws and the present climate of public conservatism, and they have greatly enhanced Shaftesbury Avenue as a street. And two out of the three make me optimistic about the state of the art of architecture.

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Julie Davidson

A guilty first foot in familiar Fenland

They will not be dancing in the streets of Alba tonight. But grimly, desperately like a band of crusaders cursed with a curse they can't deny, they will still be seeking the holy grail of hogmanay.

The Scottish New Year isn't what it used to be. The traditions of domestic renewal of warmth of the hearth and fare for the pantry have been scattered with the diaspora of the extended family. First foots go by car now, edgily, feeling the pant of the breathalyzer on their necks.

We do not just go to England. We go to the opposite end and the other extreme. We abandon our bumpy little country with its manic depressive landscape, its peaks and its troughs and its spiky historical topography for the linear province of East Anglia.

At dusk the huge, blowy fenland skies shred themselves into flakes of feather and the bewicks and the whoopers and the mute swans sidleslip over the cottage and into the Wildfowl Trust's refuge at Welney.

At midnight when we open the door to the new year, the woeeful honking of geese sounds a reproach. We, too, are refugees from the north, making an allegory of our journey. We have exchanged (to paraphrase the parable) the narrow, difficult path to Scots damnation for the broad and easy road to English salvation.

Taking a bow: Dietrich, Nureyev and the Queen Mother

Roy Strong

Perfecting life's curtain calls

It is sometimes regrettably true that curtain calls can be more interesting than the two or three hours which precede them. Few things are more fascinating than watching the reactions of people who are the subject of applause. How surprising it must be for those, like the Princess of Wales, who suddenly graduate into the league of being able to evoke a state of instant euphoria in everyone without apparently having done a thing.

Two masters of the theatrical curtain call are Nureyev and Sir Frederick Ashton. Nureyev one remembers as just standing there alone in the middle of the stage, rather far back. He can walk forward but he is usually motionless apart from the bow of the head and, from time to time, the ultimate gesture of drawing, with one sweep of his right arm, the whole audience to him, extending his hand across his heart.

Ashton is far more complex, beginning piano by being drawn in from the wings by a ballerina. This rather coy opening as the tidal wave of applause washes over him leads to a succession of stylized hand movements like the petals of an exotic blossom opening and closing in response to some unknown source of titillation. Even when he embraces on stage, the faces of the recipients are cupped between a sinuous arrangement of both hands.

Dietrich's curtain calls must have been rehearsed down to the last detail. Like Nureyev she stood alone, using very few movements, seemingly a statue entrapped in a sea of waves of silver far from around her feet. There was the languorous hint of exhaustion of an ambiguous kind and the head of hair, of a colour, as was said of the first Elizabeth, of a colour never known to nature, raised and lowered itself as though achieved by some invisible mechanism.

In these instances of theatre the control of illusion by way of the curtain and fall of light is critical. In the concert hall the approach has to be more prosy and is all coming and going. In only one instance have I witnessed that same sense of

Theatrical masters: von Karajan, Terry and Sir Frederick Ashton

log fires, pub crawls for country walks and hangersover for hearty breakfasts. We have traded the folk memories of Flodden for the cooperative lore of the Fens and rejected a lost land for a reclaimed one. Sometimes on the flight south we leave the A697 and the car and climb a clay path to Branxton Hill, where, four centuries ago, the English and Scots soldiers cast off their shoes to grip the slope. This turnip field is Flodden Field and the granite cross at its crest says simply: "To the Brave of Both Nations". We salute one as we desert the other.

There are few signposts to allegory on the A1. The monstrous cooling towers of Ferrybridge, perhaps, before the land begins to sort itself into the orderly contours of the south. England, unlike Scotland, conceals itself from its arterial roads and the Fens conceal themselves even more cleverly, their character camouflaged by flatness. The road from Wisbech, in the dark, is a glimmer of light on geometrical water and now and then the sudden solid shape of unnatural river banks.

This year the subtle landscape has a literary topicality. "And what are the Fens, which so imitate in their levelness the natural disposition of water, but a landscape which of all landscapes most approximates to 'Nothing'?" In Waterland Graham Swift has thus described the view from the rear of the cottage, although if you strain your eyes on a clear day you can just identify the tiny silhouette of Ely cathedral 15 miles away.

At the front windows a sculptured heap of earth contains the Old Bedford River. "This Fenland," says Swift, "this palpable earth raised out of the flood by centuries of toil... is a magical, a miraculous land".

And so it seemed on New Year's Eve with a friendship magically renewed and our own traditions, our ritual of seven Fenland hogmanays miraculously preserved: the baggis and pheasant dinner, the tall dark Scotsman at the door at midnight, coal and herring in hand, the children sleeping like sparrows below the rafters, the watchnight sounds of three thousand swans.

But when the clock strikes and the television begins to parade its ghastly tartan travesty of the old festival we feel the jagged texture of guilt among the soft and smooth stuff of our contentment. We know that when we breast the border on the way home we feel a tug of love for the neglected one; and brace ourselves to face the accusations of those who feel we have betrayed her.

Julie Davidson is a writer and broadcaster. She has written for the BBC and the Guardian.

Roy Strong is a writer and broadcaster. He has written for the BBC and the Guardian.

Neil Kinnock is a politician and writer. He has written for the BBC and the Guardian.

Suresh Karadi is a writer and broadcaster. He has written for the BBC and the Guardian.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

1984SPEAK

The principal message in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* is about the use and abuse of language for political purposes. The dawn of the title year has precipitated a crop of structural comparisons between the state of 1984 which we will witness in fact tomorrow morning, and the conditions of society portrayed in the triangular world of dictatorship of Orwell's novel. But Orwell was less concerned with political structure than with words.

In an important appendix to the book he described the principles of Newspeak, the idea which forms the intellectual and cultural heart of the work. Newspeak, according to one of its practitioners, was intended to "Narrow the range of thought" until "thoughtcrime" (independent thinking of any kind) would be "literally impossible because there will be no words in which to express it". It meant that every year there would be fewer and fewer words in the vocabulary, and thus the range of consciousness would always be a little smaller. Significantly Orwell's appendix made clear that by 1984 only the most urgent deprecations had been made on the language. The terminal lobotomy of the English mind, for political purposes, was not to have been completed until 2050. By then every vestige of the variety and richness of our language would have been fully eliminated from speech and literature, rendering free thinking and free speech, which had been criminal, literally impossible. A veritable gulag of the mind.

Touchstone

As we approach 1984 nobody can ignore the fact that we are on our way both by design and by default to a progressive and irrecoverable deterioration in the use of language. Language is to public discourse and private morality what a sound currency is to economic stability: once it is subverted, society will lose its touchstone, and even its symbols and myths which are normally conveyed through words and are part of every society's self-consciousness.

It is a characteristic of every age to decay a decline in standards. But the decline in respect for language, and its subversion by some and traduced by many others, has a particular warning for us because it will diminish and ultimately destroy our ability to perceive that standards - any standards - are declining because without language those standards will no longer be capable of just expression or fair evaluation. Solzhenitzyn is not the only one to have noticed this decline. However, he is one of the few who have witnessed the twin motors of degeneration; the abuse by design in the totalitarian world from which he was exiled, and by default in the liberal world whose light shone at him from afar, only to dim when on closer inspection he discovered its canker of doubt and self-destruction within.

We know that it is the purpose of Marxism-Leninism to subordinate everything - even words - to the interest of the Communist party. We have their word for it, year after year. We can listen to Mr Brezhnev recalling Lenin's words that "in our society everything that serves to build up Communism is moral". He paraphrased that by saying that "Everything serving the interest of people in building up Communism is democratic." What more categorical intention ultimately to destroy language and meaning, and what more immediate demonstration of the actual destruction of the meaning of two keynote words - moral and democratic - could there be than that?

Moreover we should not belittle the subversive effect of Marxist techniques to sustain and persist with the use of vague and meaningless terminology whose interpretation can be varied in different circumstances and adapted to the use of specific goals, by divorcing words from their accepted meaning and by ceaseless repetition of demonstrably untrue statements. What is the need to lie openly, when

truth, well doctored, gelded and shrewdly distributed, will serve the same purpose? It was Trollope who said that there is no villainy to which education cannot reconcile us. If education corrupts, can ceaseless propaganda be far behind?

It has already cast an effective spell within the Soviet system. As Adam Michnik, the Polish dissenter, has observed, it corrodes a society which is deprived of the meaning of words, and thus of its critical faculty and the alternative concepts necessary to validate true criticism. "I believe that a dispute about language is the central element of Polish intellectual life for the last 35 years," he has said. "It is about our ability to defend reality and to communicate with each other. In that period a great many of our society have lost their ability to communicate because of the language foisted upon them."

In the subsoil of a pluralist society lie the roots of individual freedom and morality. They are nourished by the gentle rain of a million words and ideas. No rain; no roots. No words; no freedom.

We know that Marxism-Leninism adapts and promotes any misuse of language if it contributes to the ultimate political goal. We know that systematic discussion and criticism is impossible if demonstrable falsehoods are deemed admissible - persistently so - because of their political purpose. We know there is a conspiracy to corrupt, subvert and ultimately destroy the "bourgeois language" because Lenin warned us of his intention. What is harder to recognise and harder still to cope with is the widespread indigenous debasement of our language which cannot be attributed to some clearly defined external conspiracy and ideological assault. It happens pervasively nonetheless. Its practitioners include some intellectuals; their calling should be to act as custodians of the language rather than as instruments of its corruption.

Where freedom to use a rich vocabulary is still available in pluralist society, why do so many intellectuals prefer to avoid the language of direct meaning in favour of imprecision or even the language of illusion? A common attitude to criticism of orthodox intellectual positions or received policies is that it does not help in the solution of some cognate problem as though, if something is bad, it is believed better not to say so unless one can do better. There is almost always the unspoken but implicit assumption that if something is bad it is easily rectifiable, seldom true. These intellectuals tend to define things not by what they are, but by what they are not ought to be, so that they can claim that intellectual criticism is only justifiable as a preparation for doing something about it.

Manipulation

This condition is at its most pervasive in the social sciences, and any discipline relating to the study of economics. But it does not stop there. There is a progressive use of vague abstract concepts such as equality, discrimination, stabilization, interdependence and so on which are susceptible to often incompatible interpretation. As Popper observed, these methods are intended "through a conscious manipulation of facts and minds", to substantiate wholly invalid historical predictions about the future, particularly in periods of rapid social change or apprehension. These predictions are then amplified by appeals to the emotions which deny logical refutation.

There is a tendency to de-personalize and therefore to politicize private conditions affecting individuals. We have the homitization of sexuality and homosexuality, of marriage and divorce, of the status of women, of parental authority. The family, which is to be a living organism of infinite variety, good and bad, is treated as an abstraction, a mere index for social determinants. These tendencies should not be seen as

evidence of a Leninist conspiracy. They are more likely to spring from a reaction to it among intellectuals who, though seduced by the magnetic power of Marxist certainty and dogmatism, are searching themselves for a meaning in the secular Western society of today. They are desperate to match Marxist certainty with a counter truth equally categorical, but equally unsatisfactory. LeBon, in *The Psychology of Socialism*, wrote: "Hitherto man has been unable to live without divinities. They fall often from their throne, but that throne has never remained empty." According to Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, the scourge and demon of American intellectuals, "Today's secular society has produced its own secular priesthood in the verbalizing classes". The wish for political change in which society is transformed to fit preconceived notions of political good bestows on intellectuals an especially important role in which they interpret reality on the way to the Utopian vision. These people are hot for certainties, but wantonly cool about the consequences. In vain the cry of the Czech author who wrote "You can't build Utopia without terror, and before long terror is all that is left". Where is to be found the classless society without its terrorist truth?

Happy total

In their desperation to merge the real and the ideal the Utopians succumb to the mystique of revolutionary violence - the violence of the best intentions. Their attitude was succinctly illustrated by Stephen Spender as "as some day, somewhere everything would add up to the happy total... The argument of an abstract sum held in one's mind which cancelled out all lesser considerations."

So, will Orwell's prediction of the debasement of language occur not from a Marxist conspiracy but from a self-inflicted wound? Will the decline and even extinction of our culture be achieved by "committed writers" described by H. G. Wells as "not men; but mere footnotes to reality"? Will they be driven by their propensity for abstract thinking in order to find goals in an abstraction, regardless of their lack of connection with mundane reality? We must see that Orwell's warning does not turn into a prophecy. "The genuine intellectual", wrote Hans Morgenthau the American scholar, "must speak truth to power." No; because to do so is to fall victim to the illusion that he has a superior truth when all he can and should do is to point out that power has no more prescriptive truth behind it than the rest of us. A society, like an individual, is above all the ideas which its members form of itself. This idea is not simply the product of the ideas merchants, but is based on many other things, in which words, images, myths and mysteries all combine and confound attempts to be codified by unitarians in search of the master code.

What if there is no single reality, but only, as Dr Alan McGlashan the London psychiatrist suggests in his book *Gravity and Levity*, a reality "always and everywhere ambiguous, paradoxical, open-ended", resting on an endlessly elusive balance of contraries? Man would then be free to commit himself totally, without anxiety, to whatever reveals itself as truth to him, in recognition of all life's other possibilities. "Life is not a series of problems", said the French philosopher Gabriel Marcel. "It is a network of mysteries." There is no place, no need, and no possibility for Newspeak in a society which has come to terms with the world's paradoxes and its mysteries. It would need more, not fewer words then to help navigate such a momentous journey through time. It is not the Orwellian nightmare which should be upon us tonight as the bells ring in 1984, only life's eternal dream which bridges the differences between ourselves and what we seek.

board nurtured Sir Dennis Rooke, the present admirable Chairman of the British Gas Corporation. Our Wales Board was responsible for the introduction to Britain of high-pressure pipe lining, on which the whole present distribution of North Sea gas is based, in spite of the gloomy predictions of the central establishment that we would surely fail; and at the same time achieved gas's first breakthrough into the profitable space-heating market. So Sir Kenneth's proposal to reintroduce a board authority makes commercial sense, just as his supply corporation makes engineering sense, as has been found for electricity generation. The idea of an independent regulatory commission, as he said, is

Gas industry reform

From Mr T. Mervyn Jones
Sir, Sir Kenneth Hutchinson's letter (December 22) must command the serious attention of all concerned for the prosperity and better being of the public sector in our economy in general and the gas industry in particular.

Area boards in the past pioneered the most significant of modern gas developments. His own, the South-east, led in new methods of gas-making and with the close collaboration of his colleague, Sir Michael Milne-Watson, of North Thames board, the first bringing into Britain of methane for public gas supply. For good measure he and his

Educating judges and barristers

From his Honour Judge Head
Sir, Only with a diffidence which is all the greater for being rooted in an affectionate admiration not only for Lord Justice Lawton's own learning but for all that he has done for the law and the Bar dare I suggest that the fifth paragraph of his letter, published on December 27, proceeds upon a misconception.

I am one of those county court judges, without an academic background in law, who wrapped a wet towel round his head for 18 months in order to pass the Bar exams - in my case after a degree in modern languages and a cadetship in the Royal Navy. I cannot deny that I might be a better judge if I were more intelligent and a profounder lawyer; but I cannot see what contribution to my present work would have been made by a three or four-year study of law in the 1940s, for much of the law which I have to administer has been changed since that time and indeed continues to be changed, most of it since my appointment in 1971.

The law of divorce which takes up much of my time has been so revolutionized that the learning of 1947, when I was called, is now useless if not downright dangerous. Contract has encountered much judicial interpretation as well as the busy hand of the parliamentary draftsman, especially in the realms of hire-purchase and consumer credit, those staples of the county court.

Torts have been altered in many respects, by statutes such as the Occupier's Liability Act, the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act, and the Acts dealing with animals; and by judicial reconsideration of such doctrines as the remoteness of damage and the limitation of actions, all good county court stuff.

Yet again, those staples of county court litigation, housing and the Rent Acts have been kindred in their changes as they have been buffeted by the waves of circumstance, legislation and interpretation.

If the county court judge is to keep abreast of current law, what he needs more than a good legal education is a good legal library, kept up to date, and the time to read it.

Having said all that, I must add that, while so many litigants in the county court may need such learning as we have, they also want to feel that their problems can be understood in human terms: often the past experiences of being a farmer and director of a small company and the engineering training that used to be given to naval cadets as well as the present joys of being a parent and grandparent have given me a livelier awareness of the problem before me than my pre-1947 legal studies, such as they were.

I fancy that no one who has read a number of Lord Justice Lawton's own judgments would for a moment think that the rather realistic approach of my last paragraph is in any way foreign to his own mind; and I always treasure the recollection of his words in a judgment in an action in which I had the privilege of appearing before him when he was a puisne judge: "Everyone knows that, in a small business, one of the most useful assets is the ill . . ."

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
ADRIAN HEAD,
Overy Staithe,
Kings Lynn,
Norfolk.
December 29.

Library sponsorship

From Mr Frederick Oughton
Sir, Lord Gowrie's suggestion (report, December 20) that public libraries should look into the possibilities of private sponsorship brings the wheels full turn. Many of these institutions were originally endowed by Andrew Carnegie from a fortune made in steel.

The most obvious source of sponsorship is the publishing industry itself on the basis of annual levy according to turnover. This would be in their own interests because they stock the libraries and depend largely on library sales for the promotion of new titles, but also works of minority appeal. This would ensure an improved stocking of the new titles which public libraries cannot currently afford due to expenditure cuts.

Apart from publishers, other factions may become sponsors, including the paper, printing and binding industries.

While hands may well be raised in horror within the business sectors I have mentioned, it is perhaps appropriate to point out that there could well be considerable tax advantages in the endowment or sponsorship arrangement. Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK OUGHTON,
15 Princes Road, Ealing, W13.
December 20.

Sobering thought

From Mr Robin Gwynn
Sir, Your front-page article today (December 27) reports that of 2,337 breath tests in Nottinghamshire, "only 40 results were positive". Are the Nottinghamshire Constabulary particularly unskilled at accurately spotting suspected drunken drivers, or are they simply wasting a lot of sober motorists' time? Yours faithfully,
ROBIN GWYNN,
65 South Hill Road,
Bromley,
Kent.
December 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taking advantage of Eagle Star

From Mr R. C. Howroyd
Sir, As a general manager of Eagle Star, I wish to express my dismay at the procedure imposed by the Takeover Panel for auctioning the company.

I have worked for the Eagle Star for many years; many of my colleagues have served the company even longer, perhaps for their whole working life. The immense value now being placed upon Eagle Star shares must, in substantial measure, be the result of our efforts and skill over the years. Now we face the certain prospect of the company being "knocked down" to the highest bidder, without regard to the interests of policyholders, staff or nation.

How can it be right that the only interest to be taken into account is the securing of the maximum profit for hordes of speculators, some of whom, with trivial exception, have made any contribution to the company and whose only interest in it is the prospect of a quick capital gain?

How can it be right that employees, such as myself, who are chained to the company by the pension rights that our years of service have earned, should have no voice in a process under which our skills and talents, our enthusiasms and loyalty, are sold as property rights to whoever blindly pays the most?

One understands that the shareholders are the owners of the business and that our years of endeavour or the chance, over a period of time, to sell their shares at a profit, but the subscribed capital is only one element in the success of a modern business and in our present-day society it is a legal anachronism that the shareholders of a great company employing thousands of

staff, whose name is a household word, and which can trace its origins back for almost 180 years, should be entitled to sell the company, without any form of consultation with management, customers or staff.

I was surprised when the Minister for Trade and Industry decided not to refer the Eagle Star takeover bids to the Monopolies Commission. One understands the Government's commitment to free enterprise, but surely, in the long run, it will not help this country to recover its entrepreneurial spirit if our great composite insurance companies, with their accumulated policyholder reserves, are allowed to be knocked down, like second-hand war surplus, at auctions that pay no regard to the wishes of the company's management and board and that totally ignore the interests of customers and staff.

Through your columns, I ask the Minister for Trade and Industry to reconsider the decision of his predecessor and I believe that the farcical situation that has now arisen gives him this right.

The grounds are obvious; if an insurance company can be swallowed whole by a predator willing to pay unprecedented sums to secure ownership of the company's accumulated reserves, the logical outcome must be weaker insurance companies. For how can management build up strong reserves, which are the essential prerequisite of a sound insurance operation, if the only result of added strength is to make the company a richer prize? How can this be in the interest of the nation? Yours faithfully,
R. C. HOWROYD,
Rest Harrow,
Round Street,
Cobham,
Kent.

IRA and civil rights

From Mr Ben Ward
Sir, I am surprised to see Lord Hunt's declaration (December 22) that the IRA was not actively involved in the civil rights movement in 1969.

I have before me an account, published by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, which seems to refute that allegation. The association was formed on January 29, 1967.

One of the 13-member committee elected at that founding meeting to draw up a draft constitution for the association and a programme of campaign for civil rights was Billy McMillen, representing the Republican Clubs, a legal organization of the proscribed IRA.

Under the impact of the violent attacks on peaceful civil rights marches by the police, and loyalist gangs incited by Unionist politicians, the IRA split, in the period late 1969 early 1970 into the Official and Provisional IRA. The Official IRA, now the Workers' Party, was composed of those who believed that the IRA

should persist in peaceful campaigning for civil rights and democracy in Northern Ireland in the further belief that the achievement of these goals would end the sectarian division in Northern Ireland.

The Provisionals were those who argued that the violence being used against civil rights marchers proved that there is no peaceful road as long as the British are in Ireland.

Billy McMillen, who was assassinated in 1975, was, at the time of his death, the O. Belfast Command Staff of the Official IRA and a member of the executive committee of Official Sinn Fein.

The bomb that exploded outside Harrods was planted by members of the Provisional IRA. Lord Hunt's brief reference seems to me, by its simplicity, to bury the truth for those less well informed than himself and I hope that he will return to this matter at greater length.

Yours sincerely,
BERT WARD, Secretary,
Irish Advisory Committee,
Communist Party of Great Britain,
16 St John Street, EC1,
December 22.

London's buildings

From Mr Peter Carson and others
Sir, We should like to add our voices to the plea made by Professor Maurice Barley and others in their letter of December 21 for the retention of the Greater London Council Historic Buildings Division in its present form.

It is a measure of the imaginative and flexible approach of the division that it does not confine its activities to the very necessary provision of the expert advice to those directly involved in London's planning and conservation issues. By giving both practical and financial support to a wide range of publications the division fosters the understanding and enjoyment of historic buildings and areas among a broader public, an essential task if conservation legislation is to be effective.

The need for the dissemination of specialist knowledge in a form that can be appreciated by the intelligent

layman is as great now as it was when it inspired Allen Lane in the early years of Penguin Books.

The happy cooperation between the Greater London Council and Penguin Books over the *Buildings of England (London 2 South)* being the first of three volumes which will cover the Greater London (suburb) is just one example of the many ways in which the division is able to increase public interest in and awareness of the richness and diversity of London's historic buildings.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CARSON, Editorial Director,
Penguin Books,
JOHN NEWMAN, Consultant Editor,
Buildings of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales,
BRIDGET CHERRY, Editor,
Buildings of England,
Penguin Books Ltd,
236 King's Road, SW10,
December 22.

Places where they sing

From Mrs M. Gwinnett
Sir, I wonder whether Mr Peter Hannigan (December 27), who wishes to boost the number of candidates for our country's choir schools, has ever seriously considered admitting girls as choristers, thereby immediately doubling the number of potential candidates.

Quite apart from its discriminatory element, the exclusion of girls from our choir schools is as much to the detriment of the schools themselves as the girls.

As more and more parents are favouring co-education for their children, a choir school admitting girls alongside boys would inevitably attract more boy applicants into the bargain. Yours faithfully,
BARBARA M. GWINNETT,
3 Alameda Street, NI,
December 27.

Backward glance

From Mr L. C. B. Seaman
Sir, I have for several years been looking forward to the real as distinct from the Orwellian, 1984 and not only because it will mark the bicentenary of the birth of that least Victorian of Victorians, Lord Palmerston. For 1984 will also see the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of my paternal great-grandfather.

In consequence, though a mere septuagenarian, I can truthfully say that my grandfather was already 19 when Queen Victoria was crowned, and that I knew in my youth a lady who had known, in the 1850s, a lady who, in her own youth, had known a lady who had danced with Prince Charles Edward in Edinburgh at the time of the Jacobite rising of 1745.

I am sure, Sir, that among my elders you have readers who can claim similar personal links with

Watchful eyes on the pound

From Mr A. B. Purbrick
Sir, If you had pushed your reasoning for the crumpled pound note (leading article, December 23) a little further it would have become clear that a reform of the coinage is inevitable.

A plausible long-term rate of inflation might be six per cent. This also conveniently tells us that by the "rule of 72" the pound will be worth 50p in 12 years and 25p in 24 years at today's prices. At that rate the round pound seems to be a reasonably sized coin, but by then the 50p coin will look silly and the 10p coin ludicrous.

The decimalization of the currency hid the need to reform the coinage anyway. This gambit will not be available another time. Clinging to a fistful of crumpled paper may suit the foreseeable future of a nation of museum-keepers. But it would be as well to preserve a few £5 notes brand new in plastic because they will be the next to go. Yours etc.

A. B. PURBRICK,
28 Doverhouse Road, SW15,
December 24.

From Lord Sligo

Sir, Congratulations to the Government on phasing out the pound note - so easily mixed up with paper handkerchiefs.

One suggestion: Could not the admirable coin be more "golden"? There would be no extra cost for a new alloy and the blind would still benefit from its thickness. Incidentally, it would more nearly resemble in appearance the sovereignty of my childhood and in a bad light be easier to distinguish from the 5p piece.

A few in my pocket makes me feel quite rich, without weighing me down. Just one buys a pint and an evening paper. Long may it last!

Yours etc,
SLIGO,
House of Lords,
December 28.

From Mr Geoffrey Sampson

Sir, On Wednesday the MP for Sligo announced (Friday, December 23) that the pound note is "central to everything" and begged for Treasury assurance that it would live; you devote today's first leader to it (December 23).

What has happened to a sense of proportion? And am I the only citizen who finds the new coins far more convenient than notes?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY SAMPSON,
Richmond House,
Ingleton,
via Carnforth,
Lancashire,
December 23.

Personality change

From Mr Alexander H. Shand
Sir, The Reverend Canon Grimwade is mistaken in thinking (December 28) that there are implications of an inconsistency in Government welfare policy in the fact of Mrs Thatcher's change of Mother Teresa.

Mrs Thatcher has never been opposed to genuine altruism so far as I know. What she is somewhat more opposed to than many other politicians is taking money off A (by Government-applied coercion) and deciding that B will be given it.

Does the reverend canon tax his congregation in order to raise a fund out of which he dispenses benefits to good causes of his choice? Neither does Mother Teresa. Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER H. SHAND,
Manchester Polytechnic,
Faculty of Management & Business,
Department of Economics & Economic History,
Aytoua Street,
Manchester,
December 28.

Pastis master

From Sir Robin Hooper
Sir, Having had some experience of both, I have been fascinated by your recent preoccupation with Lysanders and the production in France of illicit hooch (articles by Mr Paul Pickering, November 3 and Mr John P. Harrow, December 15).

My wife and I have just returned from the farmhouse in southern France where we were celebrating the fortieth anniversary of my arrival there after bogging an aircraft on a rain-soaked field. Among the goodies with which my infinitely kind and courageous hosts regaled me was home-made pastis.

Procurement, in those days, was slightly different. You could get essence of aniseed from the chemist; but the alcohol came from a neighbour's (probably illegal) still. The technique of production was, however, almost exactly the same: kind and courageous hosts regaled me with home-made pastis.

The truth of the matter, as everybody of course knew, was that the Marshal's government were busy handing over all the alcohol of which they were made to German industry. To drink pastis thus became almost a patriotic duty, and to make it almost an act of resistance - an act in which no one indulged more enthusiastically than

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HOOPER,
Brook House,
Egerton,
Ashford,
Kent,
December 17.

Year-end investment fling

ACCOUNT DAY Dealings began, Dec. 30. Dealings end, Jan. 13. Contango Day, Jan. 16. Settlement Day, Jan. 23.

It looks as though 1983 will prove a difficult act to follow in the stock market, but yesterday investors were prepared to give the new year the benefit of the doubt.

The new account on the last full trading day of the year again saw the equity market prepared to equal its previous best - albeit briefly - as investors' hopes remained high that 1984 would prove as lucrative as 1983. The FT Index improved throughout the morning session to equal its record of 776.2 achieved last week, but failed to hold its best levels closing 3.2 up at 775.7.

The latest events in the long-running battle for control of Eagle Star captured the imagination of most investors, but failed to spark much interest among the rest of the companies. Commercial Union slipped 4p to 178p, General Accident 5p to 448p, Guardian Royal 5p to 513p, Royal Insurance 8p to 485p and Sun Alliance 10p to £14.17.

Dealers are now placing their money on Phoenix Assurance, 1p off at 375p, should Allianz decide to divert its attention elsewhere once the battle for Eagle Star is over.

Generally, turnover remained at a low ebb as dealers departed for home before the close of business. Gilts barely stirred from their overnight positions, despite the continued revival in the fortune of the pound against the dollar on the foreign exchange.

The death yesterday of Mr Gordon Billam, chairman of J. Billam, the Sheffield-based metal basher, may signal the start of a battle for control of the company. The shares responded to the news with a leap of 17p to a new high of 60p after taking into account that Mr Billam owned 51 per cent of the equity. At this level the entire group is valued at £900,000 and boasts assets of almost 100p a share.

In the leaders, Distillers put up a convincing performance in ex-div form, rising 4p to 244p on a combination of well

thought-out investment support and pure speculation. GEC added 4p to 180p, BOC Group 9p to 297p, on its expansion plans. Grand Metropolitan 4p to 330p and Vickers 4p to 138p.

Oil shares presented a firm appearance still on hopes of a pick-up in demand connected with the freezing weather conditions in the United States. BP was unchanged at 406p, ahead of the final call on the partly paid shares next month, but British added 2p to 200p. Clyde Petroleum 7p to 123p, London & Scottish Marine Oil 5p to 296p, Shell 2p to 568p, and Tricentric 2p to 181p. The bid approach for Candeca also prompted renewed support for some of the second-line oil exploration groups. Cartec Cap rose 12p to 200p, Charterhall 2p to 70p, Charterhouse 4p to 127p, Goal Petroleum 6p to 98p and Premier 1 1/2p to 47p.

Pict Petroleum lost an early

6p lead to close 12p lower at 143p, after a disappointing drilling report. Pict is a member of a consortium, headed by Monsanto Oil, drilling on Block 13/21-A-8 in the North Sea.

There was a spot of seasonal cheer yesterday from broker Buckmaster & Moore which reports that the demand for beer, wines and spirits over the Christmas period was exceptionally good. The star performer was cider, which saw sales rise by over 27pc during the period. This will come as good news for the sector leaders including H. P. Bulmer, down 5p to 213p, and Merrydown, 5p lower at 350p.

However, after drilling to a depth of 8,300 ft, using the semi-submersible rig, Chris Cheney, the consortium says it has now taken the decision to suspend work on the well.

Bellair Cosmetics was again the subject of intense speculation that drove the price 107p higher to a peak of 960p, after 970p. This year the shares were changing hands at around 12p.

Highgate & Job rose to a new peak of 195p, after 200p, as the company continued. Last week Peachfield, a private company owned by Mark Watson Mitchell, of USM Newsletter fame, announced it had increased its stake in Highgate to just under 30 per cent, leading to speculation that a bid might be imminent. But just a couple of days before Christmas clients of broker Earnshaw Hayes bought 22 per cent of the equity.

Kilnworth Benson spurred 25p to 455p still reflecting the recent abortive dawn raid by Middle Eastern clients of broker L. Messel. Other firm markets included Brouha Shipley 5p to 340p, Hill Samuel 7p to 328p, Mercury Securities 10p to 540p.

But among the high street banks profit-taking loomed 4p from Royal Bank of Scotland at 220p. Recently Lloyds Bank, unchanged at 524p, stepped up its holding in the group with the purchase of an extra 4 per cent of the shares.

14 FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Table with columns: Company Name, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes various stock listings.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Table listing international stocks with columns for country, company, price, change, dividend, and yield.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Table listing local authority stocks with columns for authority name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

DOLLAR STOCKS

Table listing dollar-denominated stocks with columns for company, price, change, dividend, and yield.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Table listing bank and discount stocks with columns for company, price, change, dividend, and yield.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

Table listing brewery and distillery stocks with columns for company, price, change, dividend, and yield.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Table listing commercial and industrial stocks with columns for company, price, change, dividend, and yield.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD

Table showing sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies.

MONEY MARKET RATES

Table showing money market rates for various financial instruments.

OTHER MARKETS

Table showing other market rates including gold and dollar spot rates.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various countries.

Euro-£ Deposits

Table showing Euro-£ deposit rates for various banks and terms.

Gold

Table showing gold prices and related market data.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing various financial trusts with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

PLANTATIONS

Table listing plantation stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table listing miscellaneous stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing unlisted securities with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

MINES

Table listing mining companies with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

PROPERTY

Table listing property-related stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

REAL ESTATE

Table listing real estate stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

UTILITIES

Table listing utility companies with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

TELECOMS

Table listing telecommunications stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

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TECHNOLOGY

Table listing technology stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

ENERGY

Table listing energy stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

CONSUMER GOODS

Table listing consumer goods stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing pharmaceutical stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

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THE TIMES 1000 1983/84. The World's Top Companies. Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc. From bookshops at £17.50 or £18.00 (inc. postage & packing) from Times Books Ltd., 16 Golden Square, London, W1.

Table listing various stocks with columns for name, price, change, dividend, and yield.

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Abbey a haven money. Seven Day... Only seven days...

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

P&O wins the 1983 thoroughbred stakes

All week champagne corks have been popping in brokers' offices in celebration of a prosperous 1983 and to greet the new year, which holds promise of more good business to come.

This will be seen as the year Britain finally pulled clear of the recession. Much, if not all, of British industry as emerged more vigorous, leaner and better managed. Along the way there have been casualties, usually companies unable to conform to higher standards of competition, but, by and large, the forecasters paint a rosy picture of prospects.

The FT Index of 30 leading shares, a universally popular although not an accurate guide, ended the year on a high note at 776.2, a rise of over 30 per cent from the figures a year ago. The FT-Actuaries All Share Index also closed 1983 on a firm note, just a couple of points short of its record high and 20 per cent up on a year ago.

This year also marked the appearance of American investors in numbers in the London stock market. Their thirst for the bluest of our blue chips seemed unquenchable, and this, combined with a stream of takeover situations, has made for a very lively market.

The best performance among the constituents of the FT Index was Peninsula & Oriental's, where the close attention of Mr Nigel Brookes and his colleagues at Trafalgar House and the response of the P&O board, mainly in the shape of a new chairman, Mr Jeffrey Sterling, did the share price nothing but good.

The next scene in this drama will be enacted in the new year when the Monopolies Commission delivers its report, but investors are now looking at P&O in its own right. The shares closed at 249p on Friday, way above Trafalgar's first bid in May, and a rise on the year of 130 per cent.

P&O's nearest rival was London Brick, up 108 per cent at 137p, after Lord Hanson's decision to add it to his buying list.

At the other end of the spectrum, the

disaster story of the year was London & Liverpool Trust. After parting company with its former chairman, Mr Ron Schuck, the board pinned its hopes on another entrepreneur, Mr Jeffrey Bonas, whose Telejector subsidiary, the pub video company, was expected to yield rich pickings. Things turned sour.

Pundits and punters alike are now placing their bets on the leaders and laggards for 1984. If 1983 is anything to go by it should be another interesting race.

British Airways shows strength

Sir Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian, has put up a good case for his independent airline absorbing some of British Airways' prime routes as a precursor to BA's privatization. Not surprisingly, he reserves a pre-Hogmanay snub for Mr Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, who says in The Director magazine: "One of the great strengths of British Airways, which needs to be maintained, is its comprehensive route network and structure. It is absolutely essential that it be maintained."

Sir Adam argues that duopoly in the airline business would be better than the near-monopoly enjoyed by British Airways; the Government, keen to see the best possible return from the sale of Lord King's increasingly efficient BA fleet, and the management led by Mr Marshall, are not so sure. Mr Marshall hopes to see "100 per cent of the airline sold. It would be unwise to be neither one thing nor the other."

In a Christmas Eve letter to The Times, Lord King underlined his intention not to preside over the dismemberment of the national flag carrier airline "by selling off valuable commercial assets." Any diminution of the BA role would not be in the nation's long-term interests, he said.

Mr Marshall says for good measure: "our belief, that whatever has to be done in terms of restructuring our balance sheet the Government - and therefore the taxpayer - will get back at least all of the money that will have been put into British Airways and, I hope, a premium on top of that."

LEADERS AND LAGGARDS OF 1983

Table with columns: Company, Closing Price, Gain on year, Company, Closing Price, Loss on year. Lists various companies like Bellair Cosmetics, Dollands Photo, Harold Ingram, etc.

Summary table for FT 30 Share Index and FTA All-Share Index with columns for date, price, change, high, low, and average.

State 'must cut levies on industry'

By David Young

Costs imposed on industry by central and local government must be cut if the economic recovery started in 1983 is to accelerate next year, Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

Sir Terence, in an end-of-year message, also said that prices must be held down by keeping wage settlements down. "That is paramount in the battle against inflation."

For much of industry and commerce the situation was still "fragile", he said. "My greatest concern is that the recovery should be sustained. There is a long way to go: there are still more than 3 million people in Britain without jobs. If we are to help them to find work we must do everything we can to ensure that British products and services are competitive in world markets - not only in price but in quality, design, performance and in after-sales service."

"We must make the goods that people want, not those they do not want to have."

"The bulk of the task is for government, but Government must help by creating the right economic climate."

Allianz accepts BAT's £966m bid for Eagle

By Andrew Cornelius

Allianz has reserved the right to sell its stake at above the 700p level agreed with BAT. BAT will pass full details of its offer to shareholders with a letter from Eagle Star urging them to accept the offer within the next few days.

Eagle Star shares fell from 714p to close at 692p yesterday, while shares of BAT finished 11p up at 179p.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, described the prospects for the group under BAT's ownership as exciting. His personal stake in the company is now worth £3.29m, against £2.7m, when the bidding began with a 500p per share offer from Allianz in October.

Under the terms of the deal struck with BAT the existing Eagle management will continue to run the business. Sir Denis and other Eagle directors will join the BAT director, while Mr Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT and a

THE BIDDING FOR EAGLE STAR

Table with columns: Date, Bidder, Price, Value. Lists bids from Allianz, BAT, and others.

Good start to account

Hopes for a prosperous New Year kept the equity market on the boil yesterday as share prices opened the new account on a firm note. The FT Index managed to equal last week's record of 776.2 during the day, but closed below its best levels of yesterday 3.2 up at 775.7.

Once again, most of the serious investment advice was centred on the leaders, but turnover remained low, with dealers making the most of an early start to the New Year festivities. Gilts showed little inclination to move from their overnight positions, despite hopes for the economy in 1984 by several analysts.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Table listing stock exchange indices: FT Index, NY Dow Jones, Nikkei, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table listing currency rates: LONDON CLOSE, NEW YORK LATEST, INTERNATIONAL, GOLD.

Candecca in mystery bid talks

By Derek Pain

Shares of Candecca Resources surged 44p to 190p yesterday after Mr Geoffrey Butcher, the chairman, disclosed that bid talks were taking place with "a substantial company not currently a shareholder".

Mr Butcher refused to be drawn on the identity of the possible bidder but in the stock market, Trafalgar House, the hotel, property and shipping group, emerged as the clear favourite.

Corporation are regarded as the other likely candidates. At 190p a share Candecca commands a stock market value of £75m. If, as many suspect, a bidder is forced to pay some 350p a share, then the company's capitalization would be near £100m.

The initial approach occurred "a couple of weeks ago", Mr Butcher said. Candecca is best known for its string of on shore oil developments, including Humby Grove in Hampshire. But in

November it paid £15m for two of the North Sea Forties units which gave it a 0.5 per cent interest in the field. At the same time Trafalgar, which has been busily developing its oil and gas interests, paid \$10m for a 1 per cent share of Forties.

The two biggest shareholders in Candecca are KCA International and Sceptre Resources of Canada. In October KCA acquired an 8 per cent interest in Candecca from Sceptre and took an option on a further 21.9 per cent at 160p a share.

Thames Investment to sue over Miami project

By Jonathan Clare

Thames Investment is planning to take legal action against Mr Tom Whyte, the financier, after his decision to pull out of a £13m property development in Miami, Florida.

Mr Whyte's involvement began in October when he signed an agreement to take over Thames' part in the Miami project, which had been instrumental in the company's loss of almost £5m last year.

But he told Thames on December 23 that he no longer intended to proceed with the side of the bargain. Mr Whyte

has given no reason for his decision. The agreement with Mr Whyte also involved Mr Joseph Benjamin, a former chief executive of Thames, who has a 20 per cent stake in the deal.

Sources close to Mr Whyte, who is in New York, said that he was considering taking legal action against Mr Benjamin.

Mr Whyte was a stock market "whizz-kid" of the 1970s who later disappeared from the City before returning last year as a big shareholder in Sangers, the photographic company.

Haverford may bid for Tring

A new takeover bid may be on the way for Tring Hall Securities, the controversial group which specialise in bringing companies to the USM.

Last night, Haverford Securities, the unquoted investment group headed by Mr Norman Barrington Cork, said it was considering making a fresh offer. Last summer, Haverford was involved in a long and bitter struggle for control of Tring Hall.

No Haverford executive was available yesterday to give details of the proposed offer. In June, Tring Hall lost its licence to deal in securities.

WALL STREET

Dow slips in mixed trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Share prices rose in continued light trading yesterday, reversing an opening loss. However, by noon they had slipped again. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was 0.30 points lower at 1259.87.

Advances were about level with falling shares. AMR Corp was trading at 36, up 1/2, on a volume of 314,300 shares, including a block of 244,000 at 35 1/2, that traded shortly after the opening.

United Airlines was up 1/4 at 36 1/2, and Delta was 1/4 higher at 39 1/2. Pan Am rose 1/2 to 8 1/2.

Some traders are believed to be continuing to adjust their portfolios for the New Year and to be engaged in some tax selling. Despite the expected slowdown, 1983 will be the busiest year in the 191-year history of New York Stock Exchange with more than 21 billion shares changing hands. This exceeds 1982's 16.5 billion shares.

Investors who had not already left for the New Year's holiday weekend were likely to be restrained by uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's money supply figures, due out after the market closed.

INTEREST RATES

Table listing interest rates: Domestic rates, Euro-currency rates, US rates, EGGD Fixed Rate Sterling.

\$3.8bn loan reflects Mexico's progress

By John Lawless

Foreign bankers yesterday acknowledged Mexico's recent economic progress with a \$3.8 billion (£2.6 billion) 10-year loan to meet its 1984 requirements. Terms of the new loan are considerably easier than those attached to the £5 billion commercial bank credit signed last February.

Mexico's debts still total about £83 billion. But the country has cut inflation from 100 per cent in 1982 to 53.8 per cent in the first eight-months of this year and the economy is improving fast.

A British banker said yesterday: "There is still some way to go. But the Mexicans have managed this extraordinary performance by not only complying with the expectations of outsiders, especially in terms of scrupulously making interest payments, but in many cases going beyond them."

national product in 1982 to the 8 per cent specified by the International Monetary Fund's recovery almost a year ago. "If somebody had suddenly told President Reagan, or the British Government for that matter, 'Cut your deficit in half', the answer would have been 'impossible', the banker said. "But the Mexicans did it."

The Latin American Trade Advisory Group, which advises the Government on foreign trade policy, anticipated Mexico's recovery almost a year ago. "We set up the British-Mexican Businessmen's Group in February", Mr Michael Valdes Scott, LATAG director, said yesterday.

"In May, Mr Bob Hickman, managing director of the Volvo-Rolls-Royce diesel engine plant in Mexico, will lead a delegation of expatriate businessmen to Britain to advise firms

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

Bout of contrary thinking on prospects for gilts

An uncanny unanimity, bordering on complacency, has overcome the gilt market. Open any stockbroker's circular these days and the argument is the same.

The US Federal Reserve policy will not change much, inflation is under control at an acceptable level, the British Government's borrowing requirement could fall appreciably. Therefore, gilt yields will be more or less the same this time in 1984.

Such broadly based agreement about prospects instinctively brings a bout of contrary thinking. At the most general level, something will go wrong in 1984.

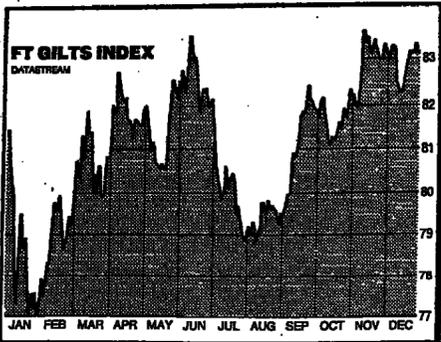
President Reagan may drop dead (although that might disturb the markets less than the demise of Mr Paul Volcker); wars in the Middle East might cause oil prices to soar; the British Government's appetite for banana skins might reach Billy Bunter proportions.

But since these and similar eventualities are by definition unpredictable, speculating on their impact on interest rates and yields of fixed-interest securities is a parlour game.

More instructive are the forces at work within the gilt market now. A useful line of inquiry here is the extent to which British interest rates will be a function of American rates in 1984.

First, a disclaimer. There is no doubt that for a host of political, investment and cultural reasons the dollar will remain an attractive currency. It may suffer from the huge and mounting American trade deficit and as a result the argument that as the yield gap between American and other investments narrows the flow of capital into the US will slow. But the international financial climate will continue to derive its essential character from Washington.

Nevertheless, the fact that key indicators around the world are merging suggests that local policy and events can exert more influence. Broadly speaking, by the end of 1984 inflation rates in the European Community and in the US will be the same (say 5 per cent) and



such differences as will persist will be offset by the low nominal inflation rate and the diminution of inflationary expectations.

In this element climate - which will be prolonged if President Reagan is returned to office - local factors such as the British Government's funding requirement and the competition from within this country for savings will possibly carry more weight in the gilt market. British interest rates and yields will not be "de-linked" from Wall Street, but the relative importance of different elements in the connexion will alter.

The irony here is that the notorious Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, so long the villain of all economic and financial analysis, is experiencing a rapid rehabilitation.

The outcome for 1983-84 is forecast by CRY and government at £9,500m to £10,000m. Helped by further asset sales during the next financial year, notably British Telecom, a PSBR of £8,000m is quite feasible.

Not only is the PSBR less demanding of private funds (regardless of whether you believe the Chancellor's threat to raise taxes), but institutional cash flow should increase in 1984 as well.

A 10 per cent rise over this financial year's likely outcome of about £14,000m is a reasonable expectation. The result would be to bring gross gilt and asset sales back down to between 80 and 85 per cent of institutional cash flow, the level achieved in 1981-82 and 1982-83.

An interesting by-product of the decline in the fixation with the PSBR could be the waning of the intricate monetary analyses popular with some stockbrokers during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Government policy, as represented by the government broker, will of course still be vital, but it is conceivable that the gilt market will be less concerned about the arcane monthly banking figures.

One new factor, however, to which the market may pay attention, especially in the second half of 1984, is capital investment. If the latest investment intentions are a guide, gross fixed investment should go up significantly faster, even if the total may still be less than the £41,600m (in 1980 prices) recorded in 1979.

It is not surprising that analysts are unwilling to break the consensus and say that 1984 will not be good for gilts, irrespective of what befalls the equity market. But the fixed interest market has been so difficult for so long that one is reluctant to herald a new dawn.

Michael Prest

COMMODITIES

German recovery lifts Rotterdam

Rotterdam (Reuters) - Rotterdam The world's largest port, appears to have weathered the recession despite a 7 per cent fall in cargo handled in 1983.

The amount of cargo shipped through Rotterdam in late 1983 was higher than forecast earlier, mainly because of signs of recovery in West Germany and in some sectors in The Netherlands, Mr Roel den Dunnen the commissioner, said.

Rotterdam expects to have handled 232 million tonnes of cargo in 1983, down from 250 million tonnes in 1982, he said. That is about twice the volume passing through Kobe, Japan, the world's second largest port.

He forecast that traffic through Rotterdam will rise by between five and seven million tonnes next year.

This year's fall was due chiefly to lower demand for oil products and for ores used in the depressed steel industry. Economists said the year was disappointing since cargo handling fell by only about 1 per cent in 1982.

Rotterdam, which handles about 30,000 ships and 200,000 inland barges every year, contributes almost one-fifth of the gross national product of The Netherlands. The port handled over 300 million tonnes in 1979, a record.

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AT&T	54 1/2	+1/2	AT&T	54 1/2	+1/2
GE	48 1/2	+1/2	GE	48 1/2	+1/2
IBM	168 1/4	+1/4	IBM	168 1/4	+1/4
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Andrew Cornelius on the change at the Takeover Panel

Hignett bows out, defending a softly-softly approach to bids

Mr John Hignett, director general of the City Takeover Panel for 2 1/2 years, retires this week with the City's code on takeovers and mergers intact and the principle of self-regulation confirmed.



BIGGEST BIDS OF THE YEAR

Table with columns: Target, Bidder, Price, Result. Lists bids for Eagle Star, Thomas Tilling, USIS, etc.

The Panel judged that BPCC had entered dangerous waters by mentioning the percentage of acceptances on the telephone.

unable to win agreement from Eagle, Allianz and BAT on bringing a speedy conclusion to the bidding.

The tacticians have become better but I don't think the tactics have been dirtier

By insisting that there should be a shoot-out then, the panel opened the way for a last-minute sealed-envelope auction of Eagle Star.

This followed controversy over the definition of the existence of concert parties when Hawley Group was bidding for the Cope Allman leisure and packaging group.

The problem centred on whether Mr Michael Ashcroft of Hawley Group, and Mr David Wickins, of British Car Auctions, were acting in concert.

The two had joined in launching an unsuccessful consortium bid for Cope, but Mr Ashcroft decided to pursue the takeover alone.

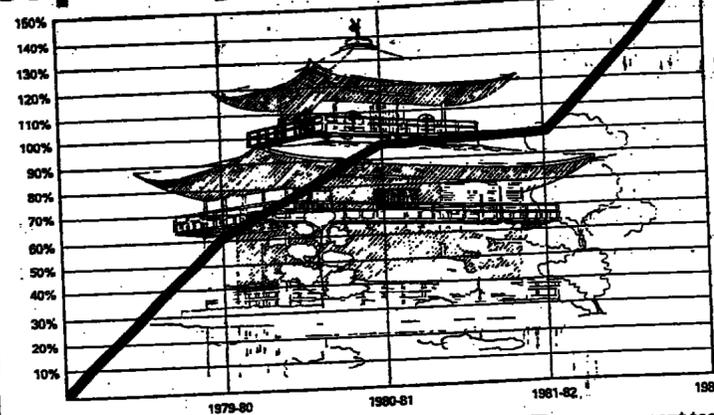
The panel's decision that Mr Ashcroft and Mr Wickins were no longer acting in concert aroused heated debate.

The only fundamental change in the rule book while Mr Hignett was at the panel followed the preponderance of dawn raids in the market.

The raids took place at the bottom of the market when there had not been much bid activity.

Looking at the bid scene in 1984, Mr Hignett predicts that the City will see a great deal more arbitraging by American investors hoping to make profits by taking a position in British shares.

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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Divorce Bill

'Self-sufficiency' can lead to maintenance cuts

The Government's new Divorce Bill, expected to become law by early spring, has run into opposition from single-parent family groups. They are against its proposals on child support - or, more to the point, the lack of it. To be sure, the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill is a bit of a dog's dinner.

It deals with a number of separate issues - allowing a split after one year of marriage, for instance (that has upset the clergy), promoting the concept of a "clean break" between divorcing partners and sanctifying the whole thing by claiming it is putting the interests of children first. But is it?

Mr Paul Collins at One-Parent Families, says: "Of course, we are all for putting children first. But we want substance, not rhetoric."

And the Bill is indeed rather short when it comes to explaining just how this admirable principle should be established, raising doubts that it is a pretence for reducing the amount of maintenance.

Just saying it's in the interests of children simply is not enough," points out Robbie Robson at Gingerbread. She believes single parents might end up with even less maintenance when the new Bill comes into force.

Traditionally, courts seem to award rather low sums for child maintenance. And whoever thinks that offspring are not quite as expensive to keep as an adult simply has not done the sums.

So, even if the courts are instructed under the Bill to deal with child maintenance first, there is no guarantee this will result in more money being paid. But there was an important amendment recently, announced by Lord Hailsham in the Lords, that will provide courts with the criteria on which to base child maintenance orders.

The guidelines will be those of the National Foster Care Association: an order would start at £26 a week for a child aged up to four, rising to £46 a week for a 16 or 17-year-old.

We are born with domicile and we shall die with domicile. For all but a few this will be the same one, even in cases where the greater part of a working lifetime has been spent somewhere else. It is, therefore, a very tenacious animal.

Domicile is of principal concern in capital transfer tax since the taxation of income depends more on whether its source is in Britain in which case it is always taxable, no matter who receives the income, or if it is remitted to Britain.

However, it should not be forgotten that all income arising anywhere must be reported on tax returns by anyone who is both domiciled and resident in Britain for the tax year in question. Despite popular mythology, the residence basis cannot apply to anyone who is domiciled in Britain except in extreme cases where it can be demonstrated that the income cannot be reutilised.

So difficult is it to be rid of domicile that it is well-nigh impossible to sandwich a period of non-domicile between two other periods. Thus, even where people go abroad with the intention of staying in another country for the rest of their days if circumstances dictate that they return to the United Kingdom, it is highly unlikely they will be judged as having been domiciled anywhere but Britain for the whole period.

This produces some curious results, particularly for capital transfer tax. The legislation has been so written that the principle of cumulation would apply to gifts of property made while resident abroad.

If an Arab living in Saudi Arabia wants to give to his son, also living in Saudi Arabia, a chunk of the Dorchester Hotel in London which he just happens to own, he is obliged to make a CTT return to the British authorities.

If all else fails, the Inland Revenue always has the S.478 of the Taxes Act 1970 to attack the returning expatriate. This gives the Revenue the right to tax a British resident on the income of an overseas person over whom he is deemed to have control.

For example, passing over assets before returning to Britain not only counts as a gift for CTT purposes, but may still make the income from them liable to income tax.

Under British law, you take the domicile of your father at birth and can do nothing about it until you come of age...

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BEFORE YOU TURN THE LIGHT OFF - JUST REMEMBER THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW PROPOSALS ON CHILD SUPPORT...

This may solve one problem - the fact that registrars as well as spouses often do not realize the cost of keeping a child. But again, the actual amount is in the hands of the courts.

Gingerbread is still worried that overall single-parent family support might be reduced by the Bill. Robbie Robson says: "The court might award so much to the children and it could be a low figure and then pay a smaller amount to a mother on the grounds that she should be self-sufficient."

There have been soothing words from the Government to the effect that self-sufficiency (which replaces the notion that a wife is entitled to be kept for life) is only to be applied "where appropriate" and is not intended to hinder single parents bringing up children.

"If this is the intention," asks Robbie Robson, "why didn't they write this into the Bill in the first place?" She believes it will affect legal agreements.

Mothers will be persuaded that it is what the law actually intends, therefore they will not fight.

Fair enough, but the spectre of self-sufficiency has had the odd result of uniting the "Jam and Jerusalem" lobby, that thinks marriage is a job for life, with the feminists who have frequently said that it should not be.

Robbie Robson adds: "They are saying 'Here's the Bill, you've got equality, now get on with it. It's putting the cart before the horse. The facts are that women give up a great deal to raise children; they lose out on their careers. Men generally speaking don't really share the burdens of child care equally in our society. If they did, there would be a day nursery on every street corner."

What seems to have irritated them more than anything is the implication that single parents are alimony drones (the Law Commission inadvertently used the term in its original 1981 treatise). So the Bill is seen as a middle-class male backlash, concocted by a Prime Minister who is a second wife, a Lord Chancellor who was divorced, and trumpeted by a media dominated, I was reliably informed by one single-parent group's representative, by a bunch of divorced hacks.

Margaret Drummond

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Insurance

Benefits of accident and health cover

The horrible injuries suffered by the victims of the Harrods car bomb and those who have been maimed by drunken Christmas drivers, bring home all too powerfully the unpleasant fact that we are three times more likely to be injured or disabled than we are to die prematurely.

Yet accident and disablement insurance has one of the lowest take-ups of all types of insurance and permanent health insurance is often considered a luxury.

Both accident and permanent health insurance provide benefits if a person is injured and unable to work but they are very different types of policies. Accident and disablement policies tend to be annual contracts - the sort where you pay a premium, but the insurer has no responsibility to continue the cover after one year if he no longer wants to insure the risk.

Personal accident policies usually pay a lump sum for accidental death, loss of one or more limbs or eyes, with lesser amounts for the loss of fingers or toes. They may also pay a weekly sum for temporary or permanent total disablement for a maximum of 104 weeks.

The Pru, for example, sells a policy which offers £10,000 accidental death benefit plus £10,000 for loss of an eye or loss of a limb (more generous than loss of a limb). There is also a £200-week benefit for up to 104 weeks for temporary total disablement, or £10 a week for temporary partial disablement, premium for someone in a sedentary occupation would be £15 a year.

If you think £10,000 is not enough, you can buy more £10,000 units up to a maximum of £50,000 worth of lump sum cover and £100 weekly benefit. This would work out at an annual premium of £75.

Since premiums are based on occupation, the danger is that if you change your job and do something considered to be more of a risk, the insurer could refuse cover.

Permanent health insurance offers much wider protection, paying a regular weekly sum for the rest of your working life if you are unable to work - either through accident, disablement or sickness. But more important, it is a lifelong contract, and provided you pay the premium, the insurer is obliged to continue with the cover once you have been accepted.

Mr Laurie Harding of the Pru says: "People are much more likely to be injured in an accident than to be killed outright and we have some statistics that show that people are three times more likely to be injured or disabled than to die prematurely."

Permanent health cover also provides benefits when you are ill - not necessarily as a result of an accident - and unable to work. The Pru and Norwich Union offer cover for non-working wives as well.

Few companies are prepared to insure wives or other non-working dependants and both the Pru and Norwich Union restrict maximum cover for a working wife to £2,000 a year and £2,500 respectively.

Permanent health cover can be expensive unless you are prepared to accept a "deferral" period - a waiting time in being off work through illness and the start of the benefits.

Most people in white collar jobs will continue to receive their salary for some weeks - often months - if they are sick, so you can afford to defer your benefit payments. For a 13-week deferral period, cover for a non-working wife of 40, benefit payable to age 60 at a rate of £50 a week, would cost £68.67 a year. Benefit of £150 a week for a man aged 45, payable to age 65, works out at £230.50 a year.

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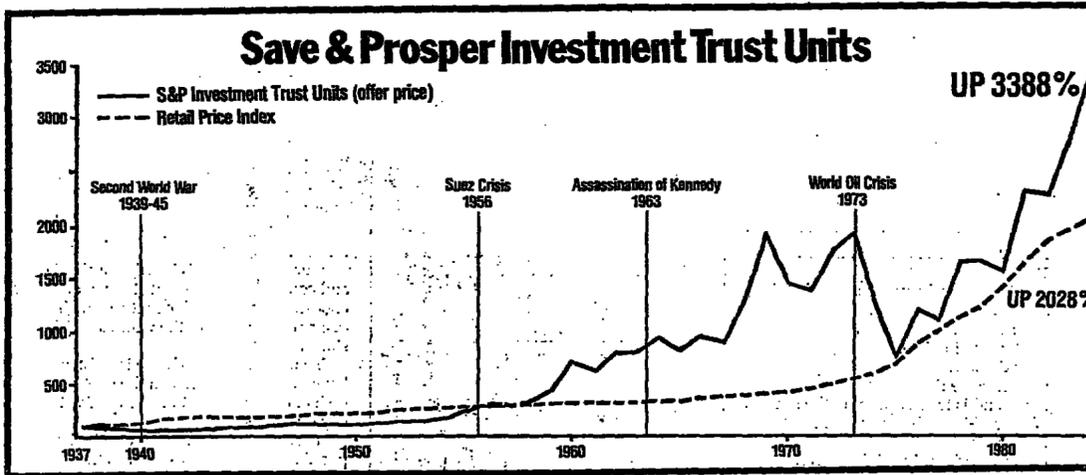
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If you are looking for an investment which can beat inflation, take a look at the record of Save & Prosper Investment Trust Units. As we enter our 50th anniversary year, it is worth noting that ITU has been in existence for 46 of these years and in that time has easily beaten inflation, thus protecting the real value of investors' savings. Its current value is £260 million, which is held on behalf of around 80,000 people.

The fund provides an unequalled spread of investment currently covering more than 100 investment trusts. A high proportion of investment trusts' assets are invested in shares in North America and Japan. These two economies are the "locomotive" force behind the present world recovery.

Investment flexibility. A key feature of ITU is that the fund managers can now switch assets from one country to another quickly, due in part to the major changes of recent years which have brought an increasing availability of attractive specialist trusts.

Excellent performance. The fund's overall record has been outstanding. Recent performance is, however, the most relevant. In the year to 20th December 1983 the offer price of units rose by 32.3%, compared with a 21.3% rise in the FTA All-Share Index, and over the last 4 years by 135.7% against 99.7% in the FTA All-Share Index.

Investment prospects. We believe that prospects for investment trust shares are good, now that steps have been taken to remedy the difficulties faced during the 1970s. These problems resulted in a widening of the average discount between asset value and share price from 3.5% in 1972 to 35% in 1978. With the average discount now 25%, there is every reason to believe that current and future changes will have continued beneficial effects on share prices.

Today's investors. The removal of capital gains tax in 1980 for investment trusts has enabled and encouraged their managements to adopt more flexible and aggressive policies. Now that the world is moving out of recession, in our opinion the investment trust sector is well positioned to profit in the 1980s.

SPECIAL OFFER Until 20th January 2% FREE ALLOCATION OF UNITS When you invest £1,000 or more in this unit trust

GENERAL INFORMATION. Dealing in units in the fund may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 working days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving renounced certificates. Prices and the yield are quoted in leading newspapers. Net income distributions 31st May and 30th November each year.

Charges. There is an initial charge not exceeding 3.25% plus a rounding adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.25%. Remuneration (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. There is also a half-yearly charge of 4% of the value of the fund plus VAT. This is deducted from the fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses, including Trustees' fees. Safeguards. The fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and is a wider range investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. The Trustee is Bank of Scotland. Managers: Save & Prosper Securities Ltd, 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Telephone: 0708-699666. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To: Save & Prosper Securities Ltd, Administration Centre, Beagons House, 28 Western Road, Romford RM1 3LJ. Telephone: 0708-699666. Units will be allocated at the quoted offer price ruling on receipt of applications. The minimum initial investment in the fund is £250, or £1,000 to qualify for the 2% free allocation of units. I wish to invest £ in Save & Prosper Investment Trust Units. I understand that the free allocation offer applies only to applications of £1,000 or more received by 20th January 1984. I enclose a cheque made payable to Save & Prosper Securities Ltd. I am over 18. I would like distributions of income to be reinvested in further units. *Delete if not applicable. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Reg. in Scotland No. 19439. Reg. office: 69/73 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4JX.

50TH ANNIVERSARY SAVE & PROSPER

Property sale

How a vendor's survey could break those housing chains

A recent letter in The Times, suggesting that time and money could be saved if house sellers commissioned their own survey and made it available to potential buyers, provoked a flood of correspondence - mostly from surveyors. Robert Leach has been examining the pros and cons of operating such a scheme.

The building societies could have problems - they would need to make a quick decision, but they would have a professional survey and valuation readily available, immediately saving time, and there seems no reason why they should not already have agreed a mortgage advance in principle, subject to an acceptable property being offered.

Schemes like this are not new, and have been discussed in building society and surveying circles for years. Mr Peter Harvey, Abbey National spokesman, says that one of his society's main corporate objectives is to make it easier, cheaper and quicker for people to buy properties. But, as he points out, surveyors would inevitably be doing fewer surveys under the proposed scheme and would not just be answerable to one person.

Mr John Wilson, Barclays home loans chief, believes that when funds are available the need for speed of processing and approval is not and would not be a problem. But he, too, is concerned for the surveyor and his potential responsibility to three parties - vendor, purchaser and, of course, the lender.

Mr Peter Short, of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, has no fundamental objections to the proposed scheme but doubts whether the public requires it or would be well advised to adopt it.

He believes that most delays would not necessarily be overcome by adoption of the proposed ingredients, and points to the prospect of higher survey costs where at present the large majority of purchasers rely on a building society valuation alone.

But perhaps it is still appropriate to ask why a practical solution hasn't been found. Could it be the loss of income for the surveyors, who as a profession sometimes report on the same property two or three times for different would-be purchasers? Could it be that a separate report for the purchaser and the mortgagee is a more attractive prospect? Would the legal profession miss the fees they receive for deals that are not completed as well as for those that are? And might the building societies be reluctant to push for changes for fear of alienating professional bodies that are a traditional source of deposits from their wealthy clients?

No one is suggesting that to put together a vendor-led scheme is an easy matter and it might not suit everybody. But with the residential property market still akin to a jungle, the needs of the consumer are not uppermost in the minds of all the bodies that could oil the wheels. It may just take the forthcoming House Transfer Bill to force their hands.

For estate agents it has to be good news with the prospect of an earlier and firm sale. Mr Ian Stewart, of Savills, agrees that it would certainly speed up the system. His firm has for some time been recommending preparation of draft contracts by the vendor's solicitors when the property is put on the market.

The necessary searches would reveal any proposed new roads, developments, or restriction likely to affect the property. Delays while the possibility of a new motorway were considered would be a thing of the past, as the information would be supplied with the draft contract, life is much easier. The large majority of property owners now have a registered title - usually one that is absolute which is as good and certain as you can ask for. The days when solicitors had to plough through

Savings

Banking on the girls of St Brandon's

St Brandon's, a private girls' school at Clevedon, Bristol, is the 250th school to set up its own bank under a Midland Bank scheme to attract new savers.

Midland has attracted more than 35,000 customers from its high street rivals with the scheme working on the principle that most account holders stay with the same bank throughout their lives.

The bank's initiative of taking its services into schools has exceeded its expectations. A Midland spokesman said: "It is impossible to say how many of those savers we would have got through the normal process of children having accounts opened for them by relatives and so on but clearly quite a fair proportion have been newly-won."

Midland considered the idea of a pilot scheme in a junior school, but is at present attacking the 11-plus market.

It launched the scheme last September, at the beginning of the autumn term, after three trials in secondary school in 1981.

These experiments - at schools at Mexborough, near Sheffield, Horsforth, Leeds, and Burton-on-Trent - showed that about 25 per cent of pupils were prepared to save with school banks.

A key factor was that school hours tended to clash with bank hours - except for Barclays branches, which have since started to open on Saturday morning - meaning that children could not gain access to their cash.

Banks have a somewhat forbidding image, compared with the smiling faces shown by building societies on television.

Midland asked its local managers to invite schools to join the scheme and stress its benefits as an introduction to modern saving techniques, and an educational tool for older children studying economics.

Bank staff, chosen for their ability to communicate with young people, visit the school in the early stages with advice. Later, the scheme is taken over by parents or sixth-formers under the guidance of teachers.

New account holders receive geometry sets, and paying-in and withdrawal books which are designed like cheque books.

There are no minimum accounts. The Midland spokesman said: "We accept anything above nothing, although our early experience shows that the average balance is about £5."

Children tend to save, if at all, for specific occasions, such as Christmas present-buying or for holiday spending cash.

The money is banked at the local branch. Midland said most money was processed through the school accounts, with only cheques being paid in by the school bankers. But it would accept liability for any cash that was stolen or lost.

It can afford to be magnanimous. By paying only the deposit account interest rate of 5.5 per cent and effectively getting other people to do its small-scale accounting work, it appears to have hit on a new account-attracting winner that would take huge advertising or promotion to replace.

John Lawless

INVESTMENT QUIZ 1984

During 1983, a return of 20% was commonplace. But what will 1984 be like? Will you be able to enjoy returns on this scale?

We believe that knowing the markets inside out is vital for success. We also believe that knowing the market dealers is important. And that's why our advice counts.

If you think you know all there is to know about investment, try taking a break from the festivities to answer these questions:-

- 1 Which of these stockmarkets produced the greatest growth in 1983? A. Japan B. USA C. UK D. Australia
2 Which of these countries has the largest increase in industrial production in the last 12 months? A. Canada B. USA C. Japan D. Australia
3 If you'd invested in a unit trust investing in the USA on 1.1.83, how much would the weakness of sterling have been worth to you? A. 1% B. 2% C. 11% D. 5%
4 In the past twelve months, one major economy has managed to keep its inflation rate below 1%. Which country is it? A. Switzerland B. West Germany C. Japan D. USA
5 Which of these markets is our recommendation for 1984? A. Japan B. USA C. Canada D. Australia

To: Reed Stenhouse Gibbs, FREEPOST London SW1W 0BR (no stamp required). Tel: 01-730 8221.

Please contact me with details of your "Strategy For 1984" - without delay.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Country: _____ Tel. No. _____
Present Income £ _____ Date of Birth _____ Tax Rate % _____
Lump sum amount available for investment £ _____
Amount available for regular savings £ _____ per year/month

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GT IS BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF 1983. GT Rules U.K., O.K. Top of the trust tables for 1983. In Money Management and Planned Savings show that GT's European Fund is not only top of its category, but outperformed all the UK's 600 unit trusts.

Here are 4 good reasons why GT should always be among the leaders

GT European Fund: Proven to be the top performing fund in the twelve months to 1st December, 1983. GT US & General Fund: This £30 million fund invests in US equities with the aim of achieving capital growth. GT Capital Fund: This fund invests in carefully selected UK companies with above average growth potential. GT Japan & General Fund: The aim of this fund is to achieve capital growth from a spread of investments in Japan with particular emphasis on growth companies.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Trustees for all the Unit Trusts mentioned: Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. The trusts are authorised by the Department of Trade and Quality as "wider range" investments under the Trustee Investment Act 1961. The offer price of the units on 28th December 1983 was as follows: GT US & General 52.4p Gross yield 0.3; GT Japan & General 130.4p Gross yield 0.2; GT Capital (Accum.) 379.4p Gross yield 1.7; GT European 113.5p Gross yield 1.1. Applications will be acknowledged and certificates will normally be issued within six weeks. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 1% + VAT of the capital value of the funds is deducted from the gross income of the funds to defray management expenses. (8% in the case of GT Capital Fund). Subject to this annual charge and net of tax, income is allocated to Unitholders twice a year as follows: GT US & General June 21 December 21; GT Japan & General May 21 November 21; GT Capital September 21; GT European April 21 October 21. Units may be sold back at any time at the bid price ruling on receipt of your renounced certificate and payment will normally be made in 7 days. Prices of units and yields are quoted in the National Press and following an initial purchase they may be bought in multiples of ten. Commission is paid to recognised agents out of initial charge. (Rates available on request). The Managers are GT Unit Managers Ltd, 16 Finsbury Circus, London, EC2. Registered in London No. 903847. This offer is not available to either residents of the Republic of Ireland or to citizens or residents of the USA. Members of the Unit Trust Association.

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Bank deposit accounts - no interest paid. Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5 1/2 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 7 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 9 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9 1/2 per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1, 3 and 6 months 8 1/2 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ. MONEY FUNDS: Fund Name Rate APR Telephone. Allianz Income 8.65 9.00 01 638 6070; B of Scotland 8.80 9.16 01 628 8080; Britannia 8.85 9.24 01 588 2777; Mutualshare 8.89 9.22 01 459 6634; Oppenheimer 8.92 9.22 01 459 6634; Sincro 8.92 9.22 01 459 6634; High interest deposit account 8.72 9.01 01 236 3887; S & P call 8.45 8.7 0708 68566; Schroder Wagg 8.55 8.75 01 382 8000; Tuller & Riley 8.77 8.86 01 236 0652; T & R 7 day 8.91 9.11 01 235 0552; Tyndall 7 day 8.75 9.04 0272 732241; Tyndall call 8.5 8.78 01 623 3020; Western 8.66 9.01 0752 261161. National Savings Bank: Ordinary accounts - interest 6 per cent on £500 minimum on deposit for whole of 1984, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Account - 11% interest paid without deduction of tax. 1 month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £20,000. National Savings Certificates 26th issue: Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.26 per cent, maximum investment £5,000. National Savings Income Bond: Min investment £2,000 - max. £200,000. Interest - 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice - check penalties. National Savings 2nd Index-linked certificates: Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1984 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1983 and October 1984. 4 per cent held for five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement Issue certificates purchased in January 1979, £176.70 including bonus and supplement. National Savings Deposit Bond: Minimum investment £500 max £50,000, 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during the first year. Guaranteed Income Bonds: Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. 2 years English Insurance 8.4 per cent, 3 years Imperial Life 9.3 per cent, 4 years American Life 9.0 per cent, 5 years British National 9.0 per cent. Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 9 1/2 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

The European Banking Traded Currency Fund Limited. Currency Markets: The international currency exchange markets constitute the largest markets of any kind in the world. As such they represent a major opportunity to the investor, but their complexity is in keeping with their size. They involve all the world financial centres and they move with tremendous speed, 24 hours a day. To make the most of the opportunities in these markets you need experience, international resources and quick reactions - a combination not open to many. The European Banking Traded Currency Fund provides this combination and is open to everyone. How the Fund Works: EBC Trust Company (Jersey) Limited has launched The European Banking Traded Currency Fund to provide investors with access to currency markets, under professional guidance. At least 75 per cent of the portfolio will be held in currencies and monetary instruments, while up to 25 per cent of the assets will be traded on an intra-day basis in order to benefit from short term fluctuations in currency values. United Kingdom Tax: The Fund should not incur UK tax on its income and shareholders are not liable to UK tax (except in respect of dividends) until they dispose of their shares, allowing the investor's interest in the Fund to grow at a compound rate free of tax until the holding is realised. This will be of particular interest to those saving for retirement or being able to realise their investments in a year in which their tax liability may be reduced. Alternatively, disposals (and therefore relevant tax charges) can be spread over a number of years. The Managers: EBC Trust Company (Jersey) Limited is part of European Banking Company Limited - a merchant bank founded in 1973 by seven major European banks. EBC, who is advising the Managers and is well-known for currency trading, has access to a formidable concentration of financial expertise, both in the U.K. and throughout the world. This advertisement has been placed by European Banking Company Limited, an exempted dealer. To: J. W. Hudleston, EBC Trust Company (Jersey) Limited, EBC House, 1-3 Seale Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Please send me a copy of the Prospectus of The European Banking Traded Currency Fund Limited (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered). Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Telex: _____

Deci... Holders of inde... National Savings... (former) L... Gansy Bonds... being handed on... end of October... for the 2.4 per... five bonds, have... make up their... whether to stick it... to take their cas... care else here... NSB has reinfor... staning attractio... "grannies", breech...

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FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

Investment forecasts

For 1984 read Japan all the way

This time last year we asked some financial experts to give their views on 1983 - what opportunities or pitfalls did they foresee for investors? Although it has been a vintage year for virtually all world stock markets, our panel of professionals did not exactly give some first-class advice.

First prize must go to Mr Stuart Goldsmith, investment director of the Britannia Unit Trust Group, who recommended its Hong Kong Performance Fund. That turned out to be one of the year's best performers. His other selections did better, though not spectacularly well. Investors will have seen gains of about a quarter in Britannia's American Smaller Companies Fund and Special Situation Trust. And his other selection, the Britannia World Technology Trust, had grown by 38 per cent over the year.

But Mr Goldsmith was not the only one of our experts to get his predictions wrong. Mr Richard Katz of Rothschilds pronounced himself "very bullish" about gold and this has been a tale of woe for most of the year. The price is now \$389 an ounce, compared with \$474 at the time he tipped it.

Mr Michael Hether of Abbey Life was clearly worried about 1983. He thought the period of real returns for investors would be over by now. People were advised, in his view to switch to inflation-hedge investments like property (flat as a pancake all year) or index-linked gilts (a little flatter, but basically dull).

This year was definitely not the one to be holding hedge-type investments. No, 1983 was the time when an investor could buy virtually any unit trust and make a gain - get it really right and you could have doubled your money. It was also the year of real returns from fixed interest investments like building societies - basically an easy year in which to show a good profit.

So what is going to happen this time? Mr Chris Tracey, managing director of Save and Prosper Investment Management, had no hesitation in plumping for his group's Japan Smaller Companies Fund as his runaway selection for 1984. "I still believe the yen is undervalued. We also feel that the recovery in Japanese corporate profits is coming later than in the US and the UK. We will see the recovery coming through in 1984. I like the smaller companies because it's new for Japan where the Ministry of Finance is now actively encouraging them."

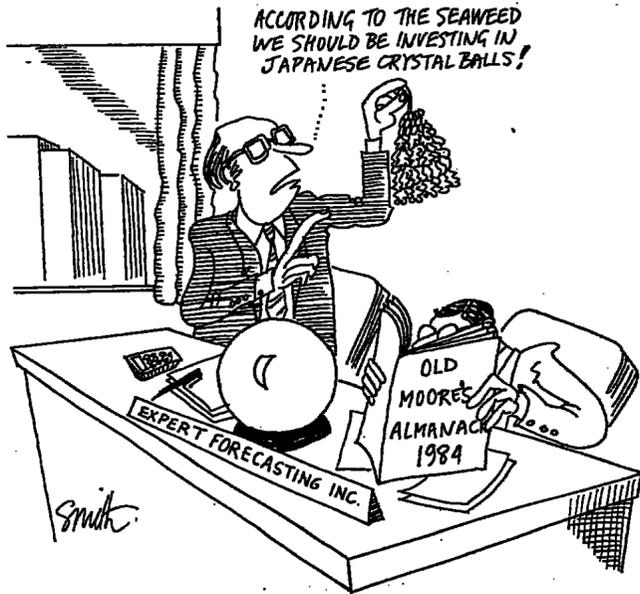
Elsewhere, he thinks things are far less certain, particularly in the US, where he believes there could be further weakness on Wall Street. Like most of the other experts I talked to, he hedges all his predictions with the possibility of a wholesale Orwellian-style crash next year, caused by Third World debts.

Mr Tony Mortimer, investment director of merchant bank, Kleinwort Benson, says there are really many imponderables for 1984.

"I think the technology area in the US is interesting not withstanding the possibility of a weakening dollar. But the yen is a good currency to be in and the Japanese economy should do well next year."

"In the UK the outlook for sensible wage settlements is good. The problem is that all world stock markets are high at present. My policy is to buy individual stocks not sectors. I also feel that by the autumn of 1984, stock markets will have gone just about as far as they are going to go."

Mr Adrian Collins of Gartmoor recommends caution. "I can't see them making



the same fabulous amount of profits that were made in 1983. I would be tempted to take some profits."

He likes Japan, but recommends Hongkong for gamblers. His choice for the year is Gartmoor's Global Strategy, which is an inter-

national growth fund, mainly invested at the moment in Japan and the US.

Mr Malcolm Hughes, general manager of Nationwide Building Society sees house prices rising quite sharply - by as much as 14 to 15 per cent.

"House prices follow average

earnings and since average earnings are rising well above inflation, the upward trend in house prices will speed up. At the moment, we have strong demand for mortgages and I see no reduction in the mortgage rate for at least the first quarter of the year.

"We will find out about the new National Savings target in April and that will give some indication on mortgage rate cuts. At the moment National Savings is fiercely competitive so any reduction in the rate to savers would mean an immediate drying-up of our funds, as happened in early 1983."

Mr Sid Lipworth, of Hambro Life thinks property may be showing some sign of firming up in 1984, but he also picks Allied Japan and Allied American Special Situations. Japan is also a firm favourite with independent investment manager Mr Anthony Wieler, but he also likes the look of South East Asia, too.



The experts (from left) - Tracey: yen undervalued; Hughes: housing top value; Collins: global strategy and Lipworth: Japan and US allied choices.

Entertainment Investors go for record profits

The glamour of the entertainment industry often attracts investment on the most spurious of grounds. Most fund-raising schemes in the sector would not see daylight if they had to meet the criteria of usual City or banking requirements.

But the world of pop music is often able to generate funds on a basis where common sense is lost somewhere between the wrinkle in a potential 'angel's' eyes and the signing of a cheque.

A lease and asset financing broker, Mr Cyril Gillis, found himself arranging the finance for recording studio and video facilities when he discovered the money-making potential of a successful pop group.

He manages an off-the-shelf company called Numberdown, an unfortunate name for a promoter attempting to get records up for the charts and is successfully selling 100,000 £1-shares for an equity stake under the Government's Business Expansion Scheme.

So far the wealthy patrons have been "mainly stockbrokers and farmers," said Mr Gillis.

Numberdown, just four months old, has no assets other than its Surrey offices and a 10 per cent of gross contract with its first rock group, called England, which has just released its first single, *Victoriana*.

When that is completed Mr Gillis hopes to have the band adopt the Surrey offices and a 10 per cent of gross contract with the project. England will not be the only band in which Numberdown invests and he hopes to involve the company in studios and record manufacturing.

How to make a profit in 1984

The major equity markets have provided excellent returns to the astute investor over the last two years. However, with markets at current high levels, profitable investments will be harder to identify in 1984. Uncertainty surrounding interest rates and currencies will undoubtedly complicate the issue. The recipe for success will be timing and active management - to make profits and protect them.

If you have capital or annual income in excess of £20,000 you can now benefit from FREE investment advice. As your introduction to our Investment Management Service, Menzies Mercantile will provide you with a detailed written appraisal, showing exactly how you can achieve your personal investment objectives. There is absolutely no charge for this investment appraisal. A well prepared strategy will be essential in 1984.



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INVESTORS NOTEBOOK THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS EVERY DAY

Savings

Decision time for index-linked bonds

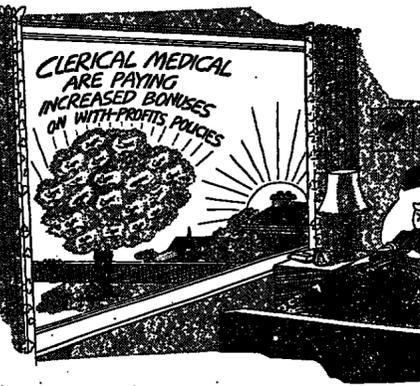
Holders of index-linked National Savings certificates, (formerly known as Granny Bonds) who had been hanging on until the end of October to qualify for the 2.4 per cent tax-free bonus, have now to make up their minds whether to stick it out or to take their cash and move elsewhere.

by lower inflation rates, by adding another 2.4 per cent for those holders who keep their bonds for a further year. Compounded up, this gives slightly more than a 4.8 bonus for those who hold on for the full two years - on top of the index-linked increase, which is at present running at 4.8 per cent itself, but likely to move over 5 per cent per annum. Non-taxpayers should

definitely make a move. The 11 per cent return on the NSB Investment Account is far better than anything which can be expected from index-linked savings certificates over the coming year. If income is not a priority, the new Deposit Bond from National Savings with a minimum investment of £500 offers an extra 0.5 per cent at 11.5 per cent but it is not so

flexible as NSB Investment Account. Higher rate taxpayers should definitely stay put. Inflation is expected to run at around 6.5 to 7 per cent over the coming year which will give a return of around 9 to 9.5 per cent taking into account the 2.4 per cent bonus. This is tax-free and better than the after-tax return from any comparable investment.

Now, highest-ever bonus rates from Clerical Medical



consistently in the 'top ten' performance tables. And, from now on, we'll be adding bonuses annually. So, if you want a very secure way to build-up a tax-free sum, or are interested in saving money overall on your mortgage repayments, there couldn't be a better time to contact us. Remember, too, we've just announced record bonuses on our Personal Pension plans as well. Of course, future bonuses depend on future profits so that we can't guarantee bonus rates will be as high in the future. But our record of giving value for money is excellent (just ask your insurance adviser). And, with inflation at lower levels, our policies could well be of even greater real value to you.

Why Clerical Medical? Clerical Medical was founded in 1824. We're one of Britain's longest established, largest and most respected life offices. And, as a mutual office, all our distributable profits go to with-profits policyholders. Contact your insurance adviser to find out how we can help with your financial plans in 1984. If you prefer, post the coupon below FREEPOST, phone 01-930 5474, or enquire via Prestel page 377930.

NEW RECORD BONUSES. To: Tony Rider, Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, 15 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4YR. Telephone: 01-930 5474. PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS OF YOUR BONUSES AND SAVINGS PLANS. Name, Address, Postcode, Date of Birth, Tel No., Amount of savings per month/annum, I AM ALSO INTERESTED IN YOUR POLICIES FOR: Lump Sum Investment, Mortgage Repayment, Pensions, Life Assurance Protection, Permanent Health Insurance. My insurance adviser is: Clerical Medical Life Assurance.

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First, first and first again. Success breeds success. In the U.S., our Target Fund was the top performing of all funds in both 1981 and 1982. And we currently have no less than three funds in the U.S. top fifty. Small wonder then that our expertise has attracted more than 900,000 investors worldwide. So why not join them. Send off the coupon today or telephone 01-236 3885. *For 12 months to 1st December, 1983. Source: Planned Savings. Please provide me with further information on the Oppenheimer International Growth Trust. Name, Address, Send to: Oppenheimer Trust Management, Dept. 70, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4HE (no stamp required). Oppenheimer

Thinking of starting a savings plan in 1984? Consider this. We've just announced record bonus rates on our with-profits policies. For the years 1981-1983 inclusive, bonus will be added on all ordinary with-profits policies, effected since 1946, at the rate of £49.00 per annum compound for every £1,000 of sum assured and attaching bonuses. Policies effected before 1946 will also receive increased bonus additions. Terminal bonus, which is payable when a policy becomes a claim because of death or maturity, is also now being added at an increased rate of 70% of the other bonuses to which a policy is entitled. Good news for our existing policyholders, of course: the record bonuses will greatly increase the value of their policies. A £20 a month policy, for example, started ten years ago would have built up into a handsome tax-free cash sum of £4,130 today, for an actual gross outlay of £2,400! For most people income tax relief (now life assurance premium relief) would have reduced the gross outlay by at least 15%, providing a return equivalent to a net annual yield of 12.5% (worth 17.8% per annum to a basic rate taxpayer). Good news for you, too. Our record 1983 bonus rates are the latest in a long line of outstanding bonus results. In fact, your actual payouts have been so good that we're

TRADITIONALLY, GREAT PERFORMERS

FAMILY MONEY

Savings

Gateway to a Gold Star account

Imitation is supposed to be the sincerest form of flattery, but in the competitive world of building society investment accounts it sometimes causes a few ruffled feathers.

The Gateway, fifteenth largest society in the country, is launching a Gold Star account which pays 1 per cent above standard rate without conditions - no notice and no withdrawal penalty.

The minimum investment is £1,000; but accounts with more than £5,000 qualify for monthly interest payments, which lifts the net rate of interest from 8.25 to an effective 8.75 per cent. If the balance falls below £1,000, interest is paid at 7.25 per cent.

The Cheltenham and Gloucester, the twelfth biggest, believes this is a copy of Cheltenham's Gold Account. A spokesman said: "We don't take exception to it. But it is a straight crib. The terms are identical - even the name is a straight pitch."

Cheltenham Gold was extremely successful when it was launched in April, 1981. So many savers opted for the bonus that the account was suspended six months later for two months.

Mr Alan North, Gateway's assistant general manager, said: "We feel that it is the sort of account that is right for Gateway."

Mortgages Building societies plan 20% lending rise

Four of the top five building societies said yesterday that they expect to increase their lending by around 20 per cent in 1984, and in some cases much more.

If a rise of a fifth were repeated across the industry, as seems likely, total society lending in the coming year could top £23,000m for the first time.

WHAT THE SOCIETIES SAY

HALIFAX: Expects to increase its probable 1983 lending figure of £2.6 billion by more than 20 per cent.

ABBEY NATIONAL: Will lend £2.1 billion in 1983 and intends to lend £2.7 billion in 1984.

NATIONWIDE: Will maintain a high monthly lending level of between £130m and £140m.

LEEDS: Definitely going to increase lending by 20 per cent.

WOOLWICH: The 1984 target of £1.3 billion is 25 per cent up on 1983's £1,048m.

Even allowing for a probable increase in house prices of 10 per cent, the rise is still substantial. It compares with 119,000m lent this year and just £15,000m in 1982.

The number of loans advanced during the last two years have increased from 861,000 to about 950,000. And if the upper limit of lending potential is reached, the 1984 total should

easily top one million for the first time.

For home buyers, a fairly complex set of new rules applies. Although building societies generally - and there are about 200 around the country - are still reporting strong demand for loans, there are regional differences in waiting times.

Mr Peter Hemingway, Leeds chief general manager, said that queues vary from four to 12 weeks around his 400 branches - with potential borrowers in Scotland having to wait longer than those in the South of England.

The Leeds, however, has been lending slightly more than 50 per cent of its money to first-time buyers in the past year.

The Woolwich, on the other hand, with two thirds of its 380 branches south of Oxford, yesterday reported demands strong as ever, but added: "Queues are virtually non-existent - down to about the four weeks it takes to clear up all the legal bits and pieces."

Branding what it sees as a trump card - held also by Nationwide among the top five - a flat 11½ per cent interest rate no matter how large the loan, the Woolwich was even tempted to suggest that active marketing of mortgages may return by late spring or the summer.

Not surprisingly, it is also suggesting that the main factor that new borrowers must



Rising demand: More home-lending should keep queues down in 1984.

consider in the coming year will be how much they pay for their new mortgages.

This certainly applies in Greater London. The average loan of one of its main competitors in that sector up to October was £25,546 even to first-time buyers - which would push the interest rate to 11½ per cent. A loan of £40,000 might cost more than 13 per cent.

A smaller society serving the same area has a differential that starts at £12,500, which would mean that at £25,000-plus (and perhaps even lower) the rate would be 12½ per cent.

A straw poll among senior managers in the top five shows that what will happen to interest rates in 1984 remains "anyone's guess" - with the high US interest rates still seen as a factor by many, but with the highly competitive National Savings rates for investments being watched very closely.

The societies themselves have come in for criticism for making their own investment inducements too attractive, but they are making them even more appealing.

They have recently had record inflows: worth £987m in

October and £870m in November, compared with £763m and £490m in November and December (traditionally a quiet month for savers, of course) last year.

Another complicating factor may be that the big banks will move back slightly into the mortgage market - although in nothing like the fashion in which they competed for home loans in 1982, when they took 36 per cent of the business.

On the other hand, the demand for money for council house purchases - which num-

Tax shelters

New Year spree for workshops

An increasing number of people are setting out with New Year's resolutions - to buy a small workshop - the sort that qualifies for a 100 per cent capital allowance.

The industrial building allowance (IBA) which was introduced by the 1980 Finance Act, has created a thriving market for these tax shelters.

Now there is a list of suitable properties available to investors, accountants, and estate agents for a £10 fee. The IBA register gives outline details of the workshops; inquirers are given the name, address and telephone number of the developer or selling agent so they can negotiate directly.

The December list of 136 IBA workshops ranges from a 2543,000 sq ft in Dartford, Kent, with two units of 1,800 sq ft, to a workshop in Wincanton, Somerset, with two units of 600 sq ft, for £16,250.

The IBA register is published by Merocon, Hove, Sussex.

Mr Brett Hoskins, chairman of Merocon, said that the register was launched because the scramble for tax shelters as the financial year drew to a close meant that some investors had to settle for other schemes because they could not find the time to seek out a suitable workshop.

John Lawless

Expansion

Exotic Airleisure brings bounce to fringe market

One of the strangest beneficiaries of the Government's Business Expansion Scheme is about to make its share debut on one of the City's growing collection of fringe, over-the-counter markets.

Licensed dealers Hill Woolgar is launching Airleisure Products on its over-the-counter market after a successful placing among its 1,000 shareholders.

Whether Airleisure is the sort of company the Government had in mind for the scheme is perhaps a matter for conjecture. Nevertheless, Airleisure meets the scheme's requirements even if it is a colourful venture engaged in fields which must seem strange to many of the investors who brought at least partly for tax reasons, its shares.

The group, trading for less than a year, makes exotic products such as disco bouncers and breaker beds.

Breaker beds, are inflated dance floors with disco-style colouring and lighting. Aimed at clubs, community centres and hotels this creation is designed for aerobic exercises. A disco bouncer is a portable contraption on which youngsters combine dance with bouncing.

Investors who have acquired share through the Hill Woolgar placing at 58p each should qualify for the scheme's tax

benefits which could reduce the cost of a £10,000 investment to £4,000. But they must hang on to their shares for five years.

Airleisure is the creation of Mr Michael Cooper, aged 43, who used to run discos and nightclubs. He has a five-year service agreement at £27,500 a year and will collect 5 per cent commission when profits top £400,000. His wife Suzanne, the administration director, has a five year £15,000 a year service contract.

Base Lending Rates

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Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
ChBank Savings	110%
Consolidated Credit	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

* 7 day deposits on terms of notice £10,000, £25,000, £50,000, £100,000, £250,000, £500,000 and over 75%

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مكتبة من الأصيل

RUGBY UNION

Insult of old score added to their newly injured pride has Bristol bristling

By David Haas, Rugby Correspondent

Bristol, the John Player Cup holders, having overcome an indifferent start to the season, can this afternoon put an unbeaten month behind them as they face 1984. Standing in their way at the Memorial Ground are Llanelli, who are looking for a double after defeating Bristol 33-0 in October at Stradey Park.

There may be an element of injured pride working on Bristol's behalf. Forty-seven players will gather at Twickenham next Saturday for the England trial and only two of them, Barnes at stand-off half and Kibbs at centre, are from Bristol. Knibbs is a replacement, a status not accorded to Hefford, the No 8 who returns against Llanelli after recovering from a shoulder injury in the victory over Leicester a fortnight ago.

Llanelli bring a reserve front row across the Severn Bridge, husbanding their resources for the meeting with Newport on Monday. They have rested Douglas today and give Griffiths, a Welsh Youth cap last season, a game at scrum half; but their back division includes capped players in Gervell, Morgan, Donovan and Pearce.

Fielding seriously weakened teams because of trial demands are Gloucester, Bath and Leicester, who have potentially demanding games today. Gloucester, beaten by Lydney over Christmas, travel to Bridgwater with Sargent, Blakeway and Orwin restored to their pack; Bath, who are at home to Northampton, restore Treviskis to the left wing and play

Redman, the England colt, at lock. Northampton will be without Caplan at full back and Worrall at scrum half; both are injured. With Field, their second team scrum half, playing for Midland Colts, they have recalled Page, the former England scrum half, who wears his 16 years lightly in the service of his club's third team.

Pontypool lock sent off

Pontypool's disciplinary record this season declined further yesterday when Kevin Moseley, their lock, was sent off during the 34-13 victory over Newport at the Weifare Ground. Moseley, aged 20, was dismissed after only six minutes by Derek Bevan, the Welsh referee whose handling of the game between the Midlands and the New Zealanders last month attracted considerable praise.

Moseley's offence was dangerous use of the boot following a lineout. In the same match Perkins, Pontypool's international lock, was returning after a month's suspension and a third forward, Steve Jones, has also been sent off this season. The win increases Pontypool's lead at the top of the Welsh merit table.

Gloucester have seven players in the trial, Bath four and Leicester six, one of whom, Woodward, will not be playing in the televised game at Old Deer Park against London Welsh. The England centre

aggravated a leg strain during Leicester's midweek win over Barbarians and will be replaced in an otherwise unchanged side by Hall. The Welsh have Rees, their international left wing, back after a skiing holiday and Bowring, a new Barbarian, in their back row.

Roslyn Park are without an entire first-choice back row for their New Year programme against Bedford today and unbeaten Wasps on Monday. Ripley, Montgomery and Allchurch, the captain, are injured or unavailable; so is Jeremy, the stand-off. Their places go to four newcomers to senior rugby, which suggests Park will have to play very well if they are to match their draw against Wasps at the beginning of this month. Melville, the Wasps captain, will appear again for the second team against Stockwood Park today and will make his first senior appearance of an injury-plagued season on Monday.

There are two London derbies today: Harlequins at home to London Scottish and Richmond at home to Saracens. Richmond will be without Jameson, their South African scrum half, and Evans, their injured hooker, whose place goes to Roland, a debutant.

Midlands derby brings together Nottingham and Nuneaton and could ensure for Nottingham, the host club, a place in the top five of the merit table and automatic inclusion in next season's John Player Cup third round. Nottingham have beaten Moseley, Bedford and Rugby and drawn with Coventry.



Page turns over an old leaf today for Northampton

Romanian acceptance

According to a reliable source in Bucharest Romania have accepted England's invitation for a game at Twickenham on January 5, 1985 (Chris Thua writes). The letter of acceptance was sent several days ago but it has yet reached RFU's headquarters at Twickenham.

The enormous volume of mail handled by both Romanian and British post offices during this period of the year was bound to create delays. The Romanians have said that they cannot afford to reject England's invitation the last of

four home unions to have decided to play against them. But I understood that they strept that Romania would need four of five warm up games before the international.

Their mutual reluctance to accept RFU's invitation was the result of adverse climatic conditions which forced the Romanians as well as many other Continental sides to split their domestic season into two halves. In fact there was no rugby game in Romania since late November when the country was covered in snow.

Chris Thau

YACHTING

Condor is winner after a protest

Hobart, (Reuter) - The British-owned yacht Condor was declared winner of the Tasman Cup in the Sydney to Hobart ocean race yesterday after the American yacht Nirvana was disqualified for crowding Condor near the finish. It was the first time in the race's 33-year history that the first honours winner has been disqualified.

The protest jury found that Nirvana failed to give Condor sufficient room as the two yachts swept toward the finish line. Condor ran aground just as it was gaining a lead on Nirvana, which sailed on to cross the line first.

Rob Ball, the Englishman who owns the Bermuda-registered Condor, said he was disappointed to win in such a manner but maintained that Nirvana deliberately forced his boat aground.

"It is much better to decide things like this on the race course" Ball said. "Uniformity at this level of racing - and it's shown in the America's Cup often - these things do happen."

Video tape shots from television network showed Condor and Nirvana two yachts headed the 170-strong fleet at the end of the race.

Condor led for most of the 638-mile race but Nirvana snatched the lead in the Derwent River estuary when Condor caught a shift in breeze six miles from the finish.

According to the jury, Condor had safely established an overlap on Nirvana and was moving faster. But Ball's yacht struck the bottom and the crew had to use a pole to push the boat clear. There was also minor contact between the two yachts.

The overall winner on handicap was the New Zealand yacht New South Wales, which finished the race in 12th, 13th and 25th, which was sufficient to keep them two points ahead of Hong Kong.

The British performance was very disappointing. It seems that Jade, the smallest yacht of the three, lost ground on the first night out of Sydney, and was never able to make up the deficit.

Condor was the first to cross the finish line in Sydney Harbour. The British performance was very disappointing. It seems that Jade, the smallest yacht of the three, lost ground on the first night out of Sydney, and was never able to make up the deficit.

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Gordon Allan

1984: The end of civilization as we know it

I think that 1984 is going to be the worst year sports has ever had. In fact, it would not surprise me if organized sport came to an end altogether; and I am saying that, I am trying my hardest to look on the bright side, because I feel that many people are not doing so well at this time of year, even if you have spent the previous 30 weeks on a bed of nails.

Now it is no use peep-pooing my prediction because you think football, basketball, ice hockey, the rest of the game, is in as much danger of extinction as croquet. It might not be such a bad thing if football did come to an end. For what makes up football as we know it? Well, it is the fact that it is played on a Saturday afternoon when the national level players who believe they see gods when they look in the mirror, and supporters whose hobbies include terrorizing towns centres, smashing trains, and putting supporters of the other team in hospital, if not the mortuary.

Despondency For a long time, fewer and fewer people have been going to matches. By next Christmas, nobody will be going at all. Imagine it - and sages have imagined far worse and lived to see their nightmares become reality. Old Trafford stands on a Saturday afternoon when Manchester United were supposed to be playing Liverpool. Seats rusting. Weeds sprouting. Manager, chairman, directors and players in the dele queue. Bankruptcy. Perhaps a suicide. Developers moving in. Pitches and stands vanishing. Supermarkets, office blocks and multi-story car parks rising over the old playground of Duncan Edwards and George Best.

For Manchester United read Didcot Athletic, High Littleton Rovers, or any club you like. Fantasy? Just you wait, as Eliza said to 'Emry Tiggins.

In the bread of rugby union, the worm is already at work. If the professional circus comes to town, England will have difficulty in raising a team. The selectors will be driven to watching clubs they never knew existed. Second XV players will find themselves turning out against Sutton and Epsom one week and Wales the next. In a frantic attempt to bolster finances, revive morale and

restore faith in the game, the RFU may melt down the Calcutta Cup to make coins, transfer all Hospital Cup matches to Twickenham, and open 12 more bars there. But even that may not be enough. Did I hear you say cricket is safe? Far be it from me to spread alarm and despondency, but its administrators have no conception of the crises ahead. I can reveal exclusively that during 1984 they will yearn for the good old days of bodyline and Kerry Packer. West Indies may pick eight fast bowlers against England instead of four - that is, if the Test matches take place, which I doubt. Lord's may have to be sold to the House of Fraser. MCC reconstruction of Marylebone Cricket Ground, and Wisden taken over by Mills & Boon.

Over the Olympic Games hangs a mushroom cloud of potential disaster - and that is the hopeful view. Los Angeles could be the third world war what Sarajevo was to the first, if a shot rings round the world again, it will not have been fired by a gentleman in a blazer pointing a starting pistol at the sky.

The parades next summer will not be of athletes. In the Olympic village, civilization will be converted into trenches, rainboots, shoes exchanged for jockboots, javelins and hammers used as weapons, and the International Olympic Committee superseded by the United Nations.

Disillusion, though it is to be an unrelieved Jeremiah, I have left to the end one of the most calamitous aspects of 1984, if the worst should come to the worst, as I believe it will, I refer to the unavoidable disappearance of living sport from television and the newspapers.

In the words of the Noel Coward song, we can all look forward to despair.

'Foreign Legion' upsets French club officials

A wave of foreign players has invaded the French shores during the past two seasons. There should be nothing unusual in it, since rugby football is a touring game and players might decide to spend a season or two in another country after a tour; but the unprecedented magnitude has upset some club officials in France.

The French championship is highly competitive and the issue of imported players has led to bitter exchanges. Even the president of the French Federation, Albert Ferrasse, said that the regulations concerning the licensing of foreign players in France will have to be tightened.

The "foreign legion" came from a variety of places, like the Ivory Coast, Poland, Morocco, South Africa, New Zealand, Romania, England, Wales and Sri Lanka. Those from Romania and Poland are mainly defectors who have settled in France for good but many from the West are simply recruited by some club presidents wanting to improve overall performance. At the top of the market are the big lock forwards, followed closely by kickers and scrum halves.

According to the licensing regulations of the French Federation, a foreign player wishing to play for a French club needs to be issued with a red, yellow or green licence. The difference was in the timing of their request for a licence. When Spring joined Bagnères he had played for Ireland; Deans

signed for Grenoble before the recent tour of the All Blacks when he was still, technically, uncapped. Many clubs have exceeded their allowed quota of three foreign players. This can be achieved either after some of their players have become naturalized or by offering those who become redundant a free transfer. Carcassonne, who are struggling at the bottom of the third division, have transferred their Australian prop, Peter Hoy, to a junior club to accommodate two huge South African locks, Reitz and Hugo, who arrived recently. Their third foreigner is the New Zealander, McKean, at prop.

Marignan have recruited three South Africans without much success, having managed to win only one game so far. The second division club, Fumel, were luckier and the arrival of their three South African players gave them the much-needed boost to win three games in a row. However, foreign players have tended to provide only a limited improvement on performances of their French clubs. The first division club, Bourg, has dismissed all their New Zealand guests, Dixon, Drake and Collinson, after the club president Michel Pomathieu, complained about "the difficulties to recruit professionally and socially players from the other end of the world".

Chris Thau

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Chris Thau

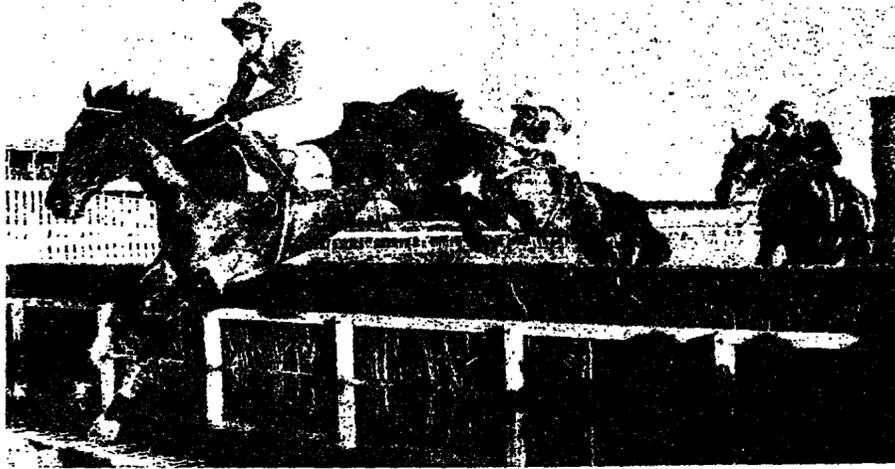
Financial tables including Unit Trust Prices - change on the week, Base Lending Rates, and various market data.

ax shelters New Year spree for workshoppers... leisure unce to market... folio 0

RACING: BREGAWN MISSES MANDARIN CHASE TO WAIT FOR BETTER GOING

Observe to be highspot of Francombe show

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent
Observe should win the Toté Mandarin Steeplechase at Newbury today...



Burnt Oak takes the water jump ahead of Roman Bisro and King Ba Ba on his way to victory at Newbury

The distance of today's race will be new to him, but watching him win the Toté rough steeplechase over three miles and 118 yards at Sandown Park last February I got the impression that another furlong and a half ought to be within his compass.

Approaching the only member of the field who has won over today's course and distance, but it is getting a bit long in the tooth and I doubt his coping with a horse of Observe's age and class, especially as he will be carrying more than his long handicap weight.

Gratification (1.0) and Spanish Place (3.0) are other possible winners for Francombe, who is riding as well as at any time in his illustrious career.

Even further behind in fourth place. After falling in two steeplechases this season when in a winning chance on each occasion...

At Newbury yesterday 28 days of misery ended for David Nicholson when he watched Burnt Oak win the Weyhill Handicap Steeplechase. For that was how long it had been since he had his last win.

Two of the better fancied Chatterbox Hurdle winners, Boreen Prince and Fane Ranger, take over another of the two and half miles of the Morgiana Hurdle at Punchestown this afternoon.

Rowe missed winning the Newtown Novices Hurdle as well on Stray Shot, on whom Graham Bradley proved a stylish substitute.

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Catterick command for Hill's Guard

By Michael Seely

There is relatively moderate fare on offer at Catterick Bridge and Worcester this afternoon...

Two other likely winners are Mr Saughton in the Towcester Handicap at Catterick, and Clutterbuck, who runs in the second division of the Midnight Novices Hurdle at Worcester.

Midland racers, in particular, will be saddened to hear that the late Rip Bissill died at his home at Astockton, Nottinghamshire, on Wednesday at the age of 75.

Time for England to revise their thinking

By Sydney Friskin

After 12 months of unrest brought about by a conflict of interests, the new year dawns with a feeling of uncertainty for British hockey.

Although the Hockey Association, the controllers of the game in England, are reviewing the scope and purpose of the Great Britain Men's Hockey Board...

There is not much else to expect in 1984 for England and Scotland being the only European nations to play in the World Cup in Edinburgh.

World Cup goes West

By Sydney Friskin

The Canadian Women's Field Hockey Association have been selected to host the 1986 World Cup tournament which will take place in Vancouver from June 29 to July 12.

On the domestic front, four of the five county territorial tournaments will end today, Essex took a tumble yesterday in the Eastern section losing 4-1 to Suffolk.

WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL TOURNAMENTS: Essex 1, Northants 2, Hertfordshire 3, Cambridgeshire 4, Bedfordshire 5, Northamptonshire 6, Warwickshire 7, Worcestershire 8, Gloucestershire 9, Wiltshire 10, Dorset 11, Somerset 12, Devon 13, Gloucestershire 14, Wiltshire 15.

Newbury

Going Good.
Total: Double 1.30, 2.30, Triple 1.0, 2.0, 3.0
Television (BBC1) 1.0, 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races

12.30 WANTAGE CHASE (Novices; £1,847; 2m 160yd) (9 runners)
100-110-120-130-140-150-160-170-180-190-200-210-220-230-240-250-260-270-280-290-300-310-320-330-340-350-360-370-380-390-400-410-420-430-440-450-460-470-480-490-500-510-520-530-540-550-560-570-580-590-600-610-620-630-640-650-660-670-680-690-700-710-720-730-740-750-760-770-780-790-800-810-820-830-840-850-860-870-880-890-900-910-920-930-940-950-960-970-980-990-1000-1010-1020-1030-1040-1050-1060-1070-1080-1090-1100-1110-1120-1130-1140-1150-1160-1170-1180-1190-1200-1210-1220-1230-1240-1250-1260-1270-1280-1290-1300-1310-1320-1330-1340-1350-1360-1370-1380-1390-1400-1410-1420-1430-1440-1450-1460-1470-1480-1490-1500-1510-1520-1530-1540-1550-1560-1570-1580-1590-1600-1610-1620-1630-1640-1650-1660-1670-1680-1690-1700-1710-1720-1730-1740-1750-1760-1770-1780-1790-1800-1810-1820-1830-1840-1850-1860-1870-1880-1890-1900-1910-1920-1930-1940-1950-1960-1970-1980-1990-2000-2010-2020-2030-2040-2050-2060-2070-2080-2090-2100-2110-2120-2130-2140-2150-2160-2170-2180-2190-2200-2210-2220-2230-2240-2250-2260-2270-2280-2290-2300-2310-2320-2330-2340-2350-2360-2370-2380-2390-2400-2410-2420-2430-2440-2450-2460-2470-2480-2490-2500-2510-2520-2530-2540-2550-2560-2570-2580-2590-2600-2610-2620-2630-2640-2650-2660-2670-2680-2690-2700-2710-2720-2730-2740-2750-2760-2770-2780-2790-2800-2810-2820-2830-2840-2850-2860-2870-2880-2890-2900-2910-2920-2930-2940-2950-2960-2970-2980-2990-3000-3010-3020-3030-3040-3050-3060-3070-3080-3090-3100-3110-3120-3130-3140-3150-3160-3170-3180-3190-3200-3210-3220-3230-3240-3250-3260-3270-3280-3290-3300-3310-3320-3330-3340-3350-3360-3370-3380-3390-3400-3410-3420-3430-3440-3450-3460-3470-3480-3490-3500-3510-3520-3530-3540-3550-3560-3570-3580-3590-3600-3610-3620-3630-3640-3650-3660-3670-3680-3690-3700-3710-3720-3730-3740-3750-3760-3770-3780-3790-3800-3810-3820-3830-3840-3850-3860-3870-3880-3890-3900-3910-3920-3930-3940-3950-3960-3970-3980-3990-4000-4010-4020-4030-4040-4050-4060-4070-4080-4090-4100-4110-4120-4130-4140-4150-4160-4170-4180-4190-4200-4210-4220-4230-4240-4250-4260-4270-4280-4290-4300-4310-4320-4330-4340-4350-4360-4370-4380-4390-4400-4410-4420-4430-4440-4450-4460-4470-4480-4490-4500-4510-4520-4530-4540-4550-4560-4570-4580-4590-4600-4610-4620-4630-4640-4650-4660-4670-4680-4690-4700-4710-4720-4730-4740-4750-4760-4770-4780-4790-4800-4810-4820-4830-4840-4850-4860-4870-4880-4890-4900-4910-4920-4930-4940-4950-4960-4970-4980-4990-5000-5010-5020-5030-5040-5050-5060-5070-5080-5090-5100-5110-5120-5130-5140-5150-5160-5170-5180-5190-5200-5210-5220-5230-5240-5250-5260-5270-5280-5290-5300-5310-5320-5330-5340-5350-5360-5370-5380-5390-5400-5410-5420-5430-5440-5450-5460-5470-5480-5490-5500-5510-5520-5530-5540-5550-5560-5570-5580-5590-5600-5610-5620-5630-5640-5650-5660-5670-5680-5690-5700-5710-5720-5730-5740-5750-5760-5770-5780-5790-5800-5810-5820-5830-5840-5850-5860-5870-5880-5890-5900-5910-5920-5930-5940-5950-5960-5970-5980-5990-6000-6010-6020-6030-6040-6050-6060-6070-6080-6090-6100-6110-6120-6130-6140-6150-6160-6170-6180-6190-6200-6210-6220-6230-6240-6250-6260-6270-6280-6290-6300-6310-6320-6330-6340-6350-6360-6370-6380-6390-6400-6410-6420-6430-6440-6450-6460-6470-6480-6490-6500-6510-6520-6530-6540-6550-6560-6570-6580-6590-6600-6610-6620-6630-6640-6650-6660-6670-6680-6690-6700-6710-6720-6730-6740-6750-6760-6770-6780-6790-6800-6810-6820-6830-6840-6850-6860-6870-6880-6890-6900-6910-6920-6930-6940-6950-6960-6970-6980-6990-7000-7010-7020-7030-7040-7050-7060-7070-7080-7090-7100-7110-7120-7130-7140-7150-7160-7170-7180-7190-7200-7210-7220-7230-7240-7250-7260-7270-7280-7290-7300-7310-7320-7330-7340-7350-7360-7370-7380-7390-7400-7410-7420-7430-7440-7450-7460-7470-7480-7490-7500-7510-7520-7530-7540-7550-7560-7570-7580-7590-7600-7610-7620-7630-7640-7650-7660-7670-7680-7690-7700-7710-7720-7730-7740-7750-7760-7770-7780-7790-7800-7810-7820-7830-7840-7850-7860-7870-7880-7890-7900-7910-7920-7930-7940-7950-7960-7970-7980-7990-8000-8010-8020-8030-8040-8050-8060-8070-8080-8090-8100-8110-8120-8130-8140-8150-8160-8170-8180-8190-8200-8210-8220-8230-8240-8250-8260-8270-8280-8290-8300-8310-8320-8330-8340-8350-8360-8370-8380-8390-8400-8410-8420-8430-8440-8450-8460-8470-8480-8490-8500-8510-8520-8530-8540-8550-8560-8570-8580-8590-8600-8610-8620-8630-8640-8650-8660-8670-8680-8690-8700-8710-8720-8730-8740-8750-8760-8770-8780-8790-8800-8810-8820-8830-8840-8850-8860-8870-8880-8890-8900-8910-8920-8930-8940-8950-8960-8970-8980-8990-9000-9010-9020-9030-9040-9050-9060-9070-9080-9090-9100-9110-9120-9130-9140-9150-9160-9170-9180-9190-9200-9210-9220-9230-9240-9250-9260-9270-9280-9290-9300-9310-9320-9330-9340-9350-9360-9370-9380-9390-9400-9410-9420-9430-9440-9450-9460-9470-9480-9490-9500-9510-9520-9530-9540-9550-9560-9570-9580-9590-9600-9610-9620-9630-9640-9650-9660-9670-9680-9690-9700-9710-9720-9730-9740-9750-9760-9770-9780-9790-9800-9810-9820-9830-9840-9850-9860-9870-9880-9890-9900-9910-9920-9930-9940-9950-9960-9970-9980-9990-10000-10010-10020-10030-10040-10050-10060-10070-10080-10090-10100-10110-10120-10130-10140-10150-10160-10170-10180-10190-10200-10210-10220-10230-10240-10250-10260-10270-10280-10290-10300-10310-10320-10330-10340-10350-10360-10370-10380-10390-10400-10410-10420-10430-10440-10450-10460-10470-10480-10490-10500-10510-10520-10530-10540-10550-10560-10570-10580-10590-10600-10610-10620-10630-10640-10650-10660-10670-10680-10690-10700-10710-10720-10730-10740-10750-10760-10770-10780-10790-10800-10810-10820-10830-10840-10850-10860-10870-10880-10890-10900-10910-10920-10930-10940-10950-10960-10970-10980-10990-11000-11010-11020-11030-11040-11050-11060-11070-11080-11090-11100-11110-11120-11130-11140-11150-11160-11170-11180-11190-11200-11210-11220-11230-11240-11250-11260-11270-11280-11290-11300-11310-11320-11330-11340-11350-11360-11370-11380-11390-11400-11410-11420-11430-11440-11450-11460-11470-11480-11490-11500-11510-11520-11530-11540-11550-11560-11570-11580-11590-11600-11610-11620-11630-11640-11650-11660-11670-11680-11690-11700-11710-11720-11730-11740-11750-11760-11770-11780-11790-11800-11810-11820-11830-11840-11850-11860-11870-11880-11890-11900-11910-11920-11930-11940-11950-11960-11970-11980-11990-12000-12010-12020-12030-12040-12050-12060-12070-12080-12090-12100-12110-12120-12130-12140-12150-12160-12170-12180-12190-12200-12210-12220-12230-12240-12250-12260-12270-12280-12290-12300-12310-12320-12330-12340-12350-12360-12370-12380-12390-12400-12410-12420-12430-12440-12450-12460-12470-12480-12490-12500-12510-12520-12530-12540-12550-12560-12570-12580-12590-12600-12610-12620-12630-12640-12650-12660-12670-12680-12690-12700-12710-12720-12730-12740-12750-12760-12770-12780-12790-12800-12810-12820-12830-12840-12850-12860-12870-12880-12890-12900-12910-12920-12930-12940-12950-12960-12970-12980-12990-13000-13010-13020-13030-13040-13050-13060-13070-13080-13090-13100-13110-13120-13130-13140-13150-13160-13170-13180-13190-13200-13210-13220-13230-13240-13250-13260-13270-13280-13290-13300-13310-13320-13330-13340-13350-13360-13370-13380-13390-13400-13410-13420-13430-13440-13450-13460-13470-13480-13490-13500-13510-13520-13530-13540-13550-13560-13570-13580-13590-13600-13610-13620-13630-13640-13650-13660-13670-13680-13690-13700-13710-13720-13730-13740-13750-13760-13770-13780-13790-13800-13810-13820-13830-13840-13850-13860-13870-13880-13890-13900-13910-13920-13930-13940-13950-13960-13970-13980-13990-14000-14010-14020-14030-14040-14050-14060-14070-14080-14090-14100-14110-14120-14130-14140-14150-14160-14170-14180-14190-14200-14210-14220-14230-14240-14250-14260-14270-14280-14290-14300-14310-14320-14330-14340-14350-14360-14370-14380-14390-14400-14410-14420-14430-14440-14450-14460-14470-14480-14490-14500-14510-14520-14530-14540-14550-14560-14570-14580-14590-14600-14610-14620-14630-14640-14650-14660-14670-14680-14690-14700-14710-14720-14730-14740-14750-14760-14770-14780-14790-14800-14810-14820-14830-14840-14850-14860-14870-14880-14890-14900-14910-14920-14930-14940-14950-14960-14970-14980-14990-15000-15010-15020-15030-15040-15050-15060-15070-15080-15090-15100-15110-15120-15130-15140-15150-15160-15170-15180-15190-15200-15210-15220-15230-15240-15250-15260-15270-15280-15290-15300-15310-15320-15330-15340-15350-15360-15370-15380-15390-15400-15410-15420-15430-15440-15450-15460-15470-15480-15490-15500-15510-15520-15530-15540-15550-15560-15570-15580-15590-15600-15610-15620-15630-15640-15650-15660-15670-15680-15690-15700-15710-15720-15730-15740-15750-15760-15770-15780-15790-15800-15810-15820-15830-15840-15850-15860-15870-15880-15890-15900-15910-15920-15930-15940-15950-15960-15970-15980-15990-16000-16010-16020-16030-16040-16050-16060-16070-16080-16090-16100-16110-16120-16130-16140-16150-16160-16170-16180-16190-16200-16210-16220-16230-16240-16250-16260-16270-16280-16290-16300-16310-16320-16330-16340-16350-16360-16370-16380-16390-16400-16410-16420-16430-16440-16450-16460-16470-16480-16490-16500-16510-16520-16530-16540-16550-16560-16570-16580-16590-16600-16610-16620-16630-16640-16650-16660-16670-16680-16690-16700-16710-16720-16730-16740-16750-16760-16770-16780-16790-16800-16810-16820-16830-16840-16850-16860-16870-16880-16890-16900-16910-16920-16930-16940-16950-16960-16970-16980-16990-17000-17010-17020-17030-17040-17050-17060-17070-17080-17090-17100-17110-17120-17130-17140-17150-17160-17170-17180-17190-17200-17210-17220-17230-17240-17250-17260-17270-17280-17290-17300-17310-17320-17330-17340-17350-17360-17370-17380-17390-17400-17410-17420-17430-17440-17450-17460-17470-17480-17490-17500-17510-17520-17530-17540-17550-17560-17570-17580-17590-17600-17610-17620-17630-17640-17650-17660-17670-17680-17690-17700-17710-17720-17730-17740-17750-17760-17770-17780-17790-17800-17810-17820-17830-17840-17850-17860-17870-17880-17890-17900-17910-17920-17930-17940-17950-17960-17970-17980-17990-18000-18010-18020-18030-18040-18050-18060-18070-18080-18090-18100-18110-18120-18130-18140-18150-18160-18170-18180-18190-18200-18210-18220-18230-18240-18250-18260-18270-18280-18290-18300-18310-18320-18330-18340-18350-18360-18370-18380-18390-18400-18410-18420-18430-18440-18450-18460-18470-18480-18490-18500-18510-18520-18530-18540-18550-1856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PERSONAL COLUMNS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS
BLADON LINES
THE MAGIC ISLANDS OF CORFU AND CORFU

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS
GREECE & TURKEY
SUMMER 1984

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Over 300 carefully selected villas, many with pools, along all French coasts.

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Fabulous 1984 holidays, with the best in a 4 holiday, all year long.

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FLIGHTS FROM MANCHESTER & GATWICK EVERY 2 WEEKS

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WINTER SPORTS

CHALET CLEARANCE SALE
7 & 14 Jan: Save £££
1 week £179, 2 wks £279 all resorts

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CHALET PARTIES
Go to selected Chalets in France, Austria and Switzerland

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The free and easy way
In a Chateau villa or apartment, the key word is choice.

LEGAL NOTICES
In the Matter of VALLEY (THAMES) PACKAGING LTD

THE BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD
Notice is hereby given that the CREDIT TUBE of the above-named Company

TRUSTEE ACTS
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to section 27 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that

EDUCATIONAL COURSES
WOLFEY HALL successful home study for GCE, O-level, SEC, Career courses

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
THE PIANO WAREHOUSE SALE
Re-opening Jan 3 with New Year Specials

PHelps Pianos
HIRE OFFER
FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY
The PhelPs Pianos Ltd

CREME DE LA CREME
with good work processing skills required for long-term project

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CRUCIAL EXAMS IN 1984?
GCE '84 or '85? Needing Applied UCAS or Poly? Studying? Qualifications?

CRUCIAL EXAMS IN 1984?
GCE '84 or '85? Needing Applied UCAS or Poly? Studying? Qualifications?

Three Tiers for Holiday Villas!
Relaxing beside the palm-matted pool, you feel like a film star. Hardly surprising, since you gather this whole pad is owned by a film director.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including various small notices and advertisements.

Saturday

Television and radio programmes

Sunday

BBC 1 8.35 Inch Private Eye: American cartoon; 9.00 Saturday Superstore; includes a song from Howard Jones...

TV-am 6.25 Good Morning Britain; with the Parkinsons (Mary and Michael); Pick of the Week...

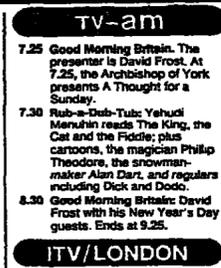


From Covent Garden - live: Kiri to Kanawa, Hermann Prey, Hildegard...

BBC 2 2.10 Film: The Pride and the Passion (1957) Tremendously spectacular (but dramatically meagre) movie version of O'Sullivan's adventure yarn...

CHANNEL 4 1.50 Film: The Lady with a Lamp (1951) Anna Neale as yet another Great Briton. This one, she is Florence Nightingale...

BBC 1 9.00 Mr Benn: for the toddlers; 9.15 Sunday Worship; from Westcott House Chapel, Cambridge; 10.00 Asian Magazine...



Eddie Cantor; he appears as the delivery boy turned slave in the 1935 Hollywood musical Roman Scandals (Channel 4, 10.45pm)

TV-am 7.25 Good Morning Britain. The presenter is David Frost. At 7.25, the Archbishop of York presents A Thought for a Sunday...

BBC 2 12.15 In Name Only (1937) Hollywood comedy. Cary Grant plays the man whom Kay Francis marries for his money...

CHANNEL 4 2.20 Meanwhile Backthen: How three acres of derelict London wasteland became a thriving community park...

Radio 4 6.25 Shipping Forecast; 6.30 News; Farming Today; 6.50 In Perspective with Rosemary Harris...

Shipping: 6.55 Weather; Travel: Programme News; 6.55 Sports Round-up; 6.55 News; Farming Today...

English Concert play the Overture in F sharp minor, for strings and continuo; Concerto in G for strings and continuo...

World Service 6.00am News; 6.15am News; 6.30am News; 6.45am News; 7.00am News...

Radio 4 6.25 Shipping Forecast; 6.30 News; Morning Has Broken; 6.35 News; Farming Today...

Radio 3 7.55 Weather; 8.00 News; 8.05 Mozart: Piano Performance; 8.10 News; 8.15 News...

Radio 1 6.00 News; 6.15 News; 6.30 News; 6.45 News; 7.00 News...

World Service 6.00am News; 6.15am News; 6.30am News; 6.45am News; 7.00am News...

BBC 1 BBC Wales 5.15-5.30pm Sport News Wales; 5.30-5.45pm Sport News Scotland...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS S4C Starts 12.25pm Rough Stage 1.55 The Tube 3.20 Land of the Lakes...

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am Morning; 9.30 ET and Friends; 9.35am News; 9.45am News...

CHANNEL 4 As London except: 9.25-10.00am Santa's Pocket Watch followed by Space 1999; 11.50am News...

BBC 1 WALES 5.30pm Sports live-up Union (Aberavon v Aberystwyth); highlights and football round-up; 12.20am News...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS SCOTTISH As London except: 9.25-10.00am Santa's Pocket Watch followed by Space 1999...

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25-10.00am Santa's Pocket Watch followed by Space 1999; 11.50am News...

ANGLIA As London except: 9.25-10.00am Santa's Pocket Watch followed by Space 1999; 11.50am News...

